



Copies of the President Barack Obama's proposed federal budget for fiscal year 2014 are stacked on pallets being prepared for delivery, Monday, April 8, 2013, at the U.S. Government Printing Office in Washington.

Associated Press
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U.S. gunman shot dead after holding firefighters



A police officer clears a path for an ambulance after an explosion and gunshots were heard near the scene where a man was holding four firefighters hostage Wednesday, April 10, 2013 in Suwanee, Ga.

Associated Press
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Thousands rally across U.S. for immigration bill

GARANCE BURKE
LUIS ALONSO LUGO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tens of thousands of immigrants and activists rallied across the U.S. Wednesday in a coordinated set of protests aimed at pressing Congress to approve immigration measures that would grant 11 million immigrants living here illegally a path toward citizenship. Organizers said demonstrations were taking place in at least 18 states and in Washington, where a large, festive crowd gathered on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol. "We won't win immigration reform just coming to Washington. We need to walk the streets all over the country," said Ben Monterroso, national director of civic participation of the Service Employees International Union, which represents nurses and lower-wage employees including janitors and child care workers. In Atlanta,

more than 1,000 people marched around the Georgia Capitol Wednesday midday, calling for comprehensive changes



Immigration reform supporters rally outside U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's office Wednesday, April 10, 2013, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

to immigration policy and an end to deportation.

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U.S. expected to increase aid to Syrian rebels

**BRADLEY KLAPPER
JULIE PACE**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration is expected to give Syrian rebels broader nonlethal military assistance, including body armor and night-vision goggles, while stopping short of providing weapons to forces fighting Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The timing and scope of the stepped-up aid package is unclear. President Barack Obama has not given final approval and an announcement is not imminent, according to a senior administration official, who requested anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the internal deliberations.

Secretary of State John Kerry, in London on Wednesday to meet with Syrian opposition leaders, hinted this week at quick action, saying broader assistance for the rebels has been "front and center" in administration discussions in recent days.

"I'm not sure what the schedule is, but I do believe that it's important for us to try to continue to put the pressure on President Assad and to try to change his calculation," Kerry said. With Syria's civil war in its



British Foreign Secretary William Hague (right) greets US Secretary of State John Kerry ahead of a meeting in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in central London, Wednesday April 10, 2013.
Associated Press

third year, the U.S. and its allies are struggling to find ways to stem the violence that, according to the United Nations, has killed more than 70,000 people. Despite growing international pressure, Assad has managed to hang on to power far longer than the Obama administration first expected.

Obama has resisted pressure from members of Congress, military leaders and his former secretaries of state and defense to

arm the rebels, in part out of fear that the weapons could fall into the hands of fighters who have allied with Islamic extremists.

Underscoring that concern, the leader of the most formidable rebel group in Syria pledged allegiance Wednesday to al-Qaida, though he distanced himself from a claim that his Islamic extremist faction had merged with the terrorist network's Iraqi branch.

Syria's opposition leaders pressed Kerry and Western diplomats Wednesday for

more military equipment, according to a senior State Department official who was present at the talks.

Kerry told them that the U.S. was looking at different options to help the rebels, but made no promises about any specific types of future aid, said the official, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly on the meeting and demanded anonymity.

The secretary also urged the opposition to organize itself better and said he'd attend a meeting April 20 in

Istanbul bringing together the Syrian opposition's big donor nations from Europe and the Arab world, the official said.

Among those who attended Kerry's meeting in London Wednesday were the Syrian opposition's interim prime minister, Hassan Hitto; Vice Presidents Suheir Atassi and George Sabra; Secretary-General Najib Ghadbian; and the opposition's envoys to the United States and Britain.

The new nonlethal assistance package being discussed by administration officials would expand on the \$60 million in aid the U.S. announced earlier this year.

That aid included meals and medical supplies for the armed opposition. It marked the first direct American assistance to the opposition forces trying to overthrow Assad, but was greeted unenthusiastically by some rebel leaders, who said it did far too little.

European and Arab nations have been more aggressive in their assistance to the rebels. Britain and France have been shipping the opposition armor, night-vision goggles and other military-style equipment, and are also open to the possibility of arming the rebels. □

Survivor of '63 US church bombing seeks funds

JAY REEVES

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama

(AP) — The lone survivor of a 1963 Alabama church bombing that killed four black girls said she wants millions in compensation for her injuries and won't accept a top congressional award proposed to honor the victims.

Sarah Collins Rudolph, in an interview with The Associated Press, said she feels forgotten 50 years after the blast shocked the nation. Rudolph lost an eye in the Sept. 16, 1963 bombing at Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and says she never got restitu-

tion.

"We haven't received anything, and I lost an eye," said Rudolph, who lives north of Birmingham. "They just want to throw a medal at us." Congress is considering whether to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the four girls who died: 14-year-olds Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley, and 11-year-old Denise McNair. Addie Mae was the sister of Rudolph, who was 12 at the time and among the many who were injured.

The brother of Wesley said he isn't interested in the award either and wants compensation, partly be-

cause history didn't even record his sister's name correctly. U.S. Reps. Terri Sewell, a Democrat, and Spencer Bachus, a Republican, announced a bipartisan effort in January to award the medal to the church bombing victims. The medal represents the highest civilian honor that Congress can bestow. Recipients have ranged from George Washington to civil rights figure Rosa Parks, Pope John Paul II and "Peanuts" creator Charles M. Schulz. The church bombing shocked the nation and was a galvanizing moment in the civil rights movement. □



Sarah Collins Rudolph, the lone survivor of a 1963 church bombing, and Fate Morris, whose sister died in the blast, discuss their desire for compensation from the bombing during an interview in Birmingham, Ala., on Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

Associated Press

Obama sends Congress \$3.8 trillion budget plan



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, flanked by House Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Va., right, and Rep. Luke Messer, R-Ind., meet with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, April 10, 2013, following a Republican strategy session, and the release of President Barack Obama's proposed fiscal 2014 federal budget. Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama sent Congress a \$3.8 trillion budget plan that hopes to tame galloping deficits by raising taxes on the wealthy and trimming the country's most popular benefit programs. In aiming for a compromise between Republicans who refuse to raise taxes and Democrats who want to protect those benefits, he's upset some on both sides. The White House wants to break away from the current cycle of moving from one fiscal crisis to another while the government skirts the brink of a shutdown. Deep political divisions have blocked substantial agreements to address the country's gaping debt. It's unlikely that Congress will begin serious budget

negotiations before summer, when the government once again will be confronted with the need to raise its borrowing limit or face the prospect of a first-ever default on U.S. debt. Obama on Wednesday night was having a private dinner at the White House with about a dozen Republican senators as part of efforts to win over the opposition. The president's budget proposal includes \$1.8 trillion in new deficit cuts as the U.S. tries to wrestle down its debt. The last time the government ran an annual surplus was in 2001, the year of the 9/11 attacks that led to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. On Wednesday, the Treasury Department said the U.S. deficit was on pace to

finish below \$1 trillion for the first time in five years. The deficit hit a record \$1.41 trillion in budget year 2009. Obama's budget blueprint for 2014 assumes that Washington reverses the recent deep budget cuts that have become a daily reality for the military. It calls for a base Defense Department budget of \$526.6 billion — \$52 billion more than the level established by the blunt spending cuts, which had been designed to force the White House and Congress to reach a fiscal deal to avoid them. The budget plan includes an \$88.5 billion placeholder for additional war costs in Afghanistan as Obama decides on the pace of the drawdown of U.S. combat troops next year. The president's spending

and tax plan for the budget year that begins Oct. 1 is two months late. It projects deficit reductions of \$1.8 trillion over the next decade, achieved with higher taxes, reductions in payments to Medicare health aid providers and cutbacks in the cost-of-living adjustments paid to millions of recipients in Social Security pensions and other government programs. A key advocacy group for the aging said Wednesday it was "deeply dismayed" by the plan to trim the government's two biggest benefit programs. Obama himself said his offer to trim future benefit increases for tens of millions of people is "less than optimal" and acceptable only if Republicans simultaneously agree to raise taxes on the

wealthy. "If anyone thinks I'll finish the job of deficit reduction on the backs of middle-class families or through spending cuts alone that actually hurt our economy short-term, they should think again," the president said. But Republicans have rejected higher taxes, arguing that the \$600 billion increase on wealthy earners that was part of a December agreement to avoid a sharp hit to the economy is all they will tolerate. "We Republicans have already done things to move to the middle, to find common ground," said House of Representatives Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, last year's Republican vice presidential nominee, on MSNBC. □

Senate deal is boost for gun background checks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservative senators from both political parties announced their support for expanding background checks for gun buyers, giving momentum to supporters of stronger restrictions, but it remains unclear if President Barack Obama can push significant gun controls through Congress. Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin and Republican Sen. Pat Toomey announced the pact Wednesday. The agreement between two of the most conservative members of each party was expected to make it even likelier that the Senate's initial vote Thursday to begin debating gun legislation would proceed, despite an effort by conservatives to block consideration of the measure.

Subjecting more firearms purchases to federal background checks has been the chief goal of Obama and gun control supporters, who promote the system as a way to prevent criminals and other potentially dangerous people from getting weapons. Manchin cited the December massacre in Connecticut where 20 small children and six educators were murdered, propelling gun control to the top rank of



Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, D-W.Va., left, and Sen. Patrick Toomey, R-Pa., arrive at a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, April 10, 2013, to announce that they have reached a bipartisan deal on expanding background checks to more gun buyers.

national issues.

"Truly the events at Newtown changed us all," he said. "Americans on both sides of the debate can and must find common ground."

Despite the progress on a gun control bill, two major provisions in Obama's original gun control package — a ban on sales of military-style assault weapons and

a limit on the size of ammunition magazines — are not even being discussed any more since they have no hope of being passed.

Wednesday's deal would expand the background checks to cover all commercial sales, such as on the Web and at gun shows, closing the so-called gun show loophole. Private transactions that are not

for profit, such as those between relatives, would be exempt. Currently, the system only covers sales through licensed gun dealers.

Obama said in a written statement he wished parts of the bill were stronger but that it represents significant progress and if enacted would make it harder for dangerous people to obtain guns.

"It recognizes that there are good people on both sides of this issue, and we don't have to agree on everything to know that we've got to do something to stem the tide of gun violence," he said.

Underscoring the difficulty proponents will have in passing the agreement, the National Rifle Association, the country's most powerful gun lobby, came out against the Manchin-Toomey accord.

The group, which has fought most of Obama's gun proposals and claims nearly 5 million members, said the focus should be on improving the U.S. mental health system and combatting sources of violence like gangs.

"Expanding background checks at gun shows will not prevent the next shooting, will not solve violent

crime and will not keep our kids safe in schools," the organization said.

In a letter to senators late Wednesday, NRA lobbyist Chris W. Cox warned that the organization would include lawmakers' votes on the deal and other amendments it opposes in the candidate ratings it sends to its members and supporters.

Conservative Republican Sen. Tom Coburn called the Manchin-Toomey effort a "good faith but unworkable plan" that "prioritizes collecting records over protecting citizens."

Any gun control measure would be a plus for Obama as he tries in his second term to build a legacy. Other measures he is working on include an immigration bill and a budget deal that will keep the U.S. from repeatedly lurching to financial crises.

Meanwhile, the Senate is ready for an opening vote on restricting guns as Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid set a roll call vote for Thursday on starting consideration of the firearms legislation.

The background check deal makes it even likelier that Democrats will win enough Republican support to thwart an effort by conservatives and Senate Republican Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to block consideration from even starting.

The administration was continuing its effort to pressure Congress on gun control on Wednesday as first lady Michelle Obama planned to visit a Chicago high school where authorities say 29 current or former students have been shot in the past year. Eight of them died.

The ultimate fate of gun legislation remains clouded by opposition from many Republicans and moderate Democrats in the Democratic-led-Senate and Republican-run House.

Many critics say the proposal would violate the U.S. Constitutional right to bear arms and burden law-abiding gun owners. □

Immigration Bill

Continued from Front

In San Francisco, several hundred demonstrators marched toward the federal building holding red and orange paper flowers representing the number of people deported daily for immigration violations. In San Diego, about 50 demonstrators gathered on a sidewalk outside the office of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a sharp contrast to massive protests in 2006 when thousands of demonstrators shut down downtown streets to support looser immigration policies.

Senators writing a sweeping immigration bill have said they hope to finish their work this week, open-

ing what is sure to be a raucous public debate over measures to secure the border, allow tens of thousands of foreign workers into the country and grant eventual citizenship to the millions living illegally in the United States.

A person familiar with proposed bipartisan immigration legislation being written in the Senate said Wednesday the bill would require greatly expanded surveillance of the U.S. border with Mexico and greatly increased detention of border crossers in high risk areas. The person provided the information on condition of anonymity because the deliberations were private.

Groups opposed to illegal immigration say they are not worried that lawmakers



Mario Ibarra, 38, of Richmond, Va., who is originally from Mexico, poses for a portrait at the end of the "Rally for Citizenship," a rally in support of immigration reform, on Capitol Hill in Washington, on Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

Associated Press

or voters will be swayed by emotional messages, and argue that extending legal rights to immigrants living illegally in the U.S. will create financial problems for cash-starved governments and spur more illegal immigration. □

"There ought to be a rally for the 20 million Americans who can't find a full-time job," NumberUSA President Roy Beck, whose group advocates reductions in immigration levels, said in a statement Wednesday. □

Rockefeller impostor convicted of 1985 murder



Christian Karl Gerhartsreiter listens to the verdict in his trial at Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center in Los Angeles Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

Associated Press

LINDA DEUTSCH

AP Special Correspondent
LOS ANGELES (AP) —

A notorious Rockefeller impostor was found guilty Wednesday of first-degree murder in the death of a man whose bones were found buried beneath the backyard of a suburban home. Christian Gerhartsreiter was tried 28 years after the disappearance of newlyweds John and Linda Sohus in a heavily circumstantial cold case. Much of the prosecution's evidence focused on the strange behavior of the man who adopted many names including Clark Rockefeller. He masqueraded as an heir to the fabled oil fortune for 20 years. The case went to the jury late Tuesday morning and the verdict was reached shortly after the panel returned Wednesday. Gerhartsreiter did not show

any reaction when the court clerk read the decision convicting him of killing John Sohus.

"I don't know if you can really have closure with something like this," the victim's sister, Ellen Sohus, said afterward. "What I have now are a lot of answers that I never believed I was ever going to have." Sentencing was scheduled for June 28. Gerhartsreiter faces 25 years to life in prison for the murder conviction, plus two additional years because the jury also found that he personally used a blunt object and a sharp instrument as weapons. It was not a death penalty case.

Authorities said Gerhartsreiter was a German immigrant who lived another life long ago, occupying a guest cottage at the home of Sohus' mother in the ritzy suburb of San Marino. He

was known then as Chris Chichester and intimated he was of royal lineage. He joined the church, befriended residents and told some he was a film student. A friend said Linda Sohus

once described the tenant in the cottage owned by John's mother as "creepy" and said she and her husband never spoke to him. The town folk didn't connect him with the disappearance of the Sohus couple in 1985, but shortly after they vanished, so did he. No trace of Linda has been found but John's bones were unearthed during excavation of a swimming pool at the San Marino property in 1994. With no clues, the mystery went cold again.

But across the country, a man variously known as Chris Crowe, Chip Smith and Clark Rockefeller was inventing new lives for himself.

This impostor wormed his way into high society and talked his way into important jobs. He married a wealthy woman and controlled her funds, but his identity unraveled when he kidnapped their daughter during a custody dispute. She testified that he became increasingly paranoid when police began inquiring about him.

When he was unmasked, he became the subject of magazine articles, true crime books and TV movies that sought to explore his bizarre story and get to the heart of the man behind the pseudonyms.

The resulting publicity led California authorities to revisit the Sohus disappearance. They realized the man in custody in Boston was not an heir to the Rockefeller fortune but was the man who had lived in San Marino decades ago.

Already serving time for the kidnapping of his young daughter in a Boston custody dispute, Gerhartsreiter was close to the end of his sentence and headed for freedom when the murder charge changed that. After a quarter century, authorities believed they had linked him to the disappearance of his old neighbor, Sohus.

Defense attorneys suggested that Linda Sohus, not their client, killed her husband. But no motive was offered for her or Gerhartsreiter to have killed the young man. □

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A police officer clears a path for an ambulance after an explosion and gunshots were heard near the scene where a man was holding four firefighters hostage Wednesday, April 10, 2013 in Suwanee, Ga.

Associated Press.

US gunman shot dead after holding firefighters

Associated Press

SUWANEE, Georgia (AP) — Police shot dead a gunman who held four firefighters hostage for hours in a suburban Atlanta home, and all the hostages were slightly injured but should be all right, authorities said. The gunman, who was not identified, had demanded that his power and cable be turned back on, said Gwinnett County Police Cpl. Edwin Ritter. According to public records, the home is in foreclosure. "It's an unfortunate circumstance.

We did not want this to end this way," Ritter said. "But with the decisions this guy was making, this was his demise." Five firefighters had responded Wednesday afternoon to what seemed like a routine medical call. The gunman then released one firefighter to move a fire truck. Police used an explosion to distract the gunman and rush into the home. Soon after the blast, officers exchanged gunfire with the suspect and one was shot in the hand or arm, but should be fine, Ritter said. □

APNewsBreak: Lindh lawyers want prison in contempt



This undated file photo obtained from a religious school where he studied for five months in Bannu, near Islamabad, Pakistan shows American-born Taliban fighter John Walker Lindh

Associated Press

CHARLES WILSON

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Lawyers for American Taliban fighter John Walker Lindh asked a U.S. judge Wednesday to find the Federal Bureau of Prisons in contempt for not allowing Muslim inmates in a high-security prison unit to pray together five times a day, as required by their faith. The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana filed the contempt motion in U.S. District Court and sent a copy to The Associated

Press. Lindh first drew attention when he was detained in Afghanistan weeks after the 9/11 attacks in 2001. The prisons agency has said inmates of all religions housed in the Terre Haute federal prison's Communications Management Unit have been allowed to pray together three times daily after a federal judge ruled in Lindh's favor in a lawsuit seeking the prayer time. The ACLU of Indiana argues that isn't what the judge's Jan. 11 ruling required. The judge said Lindh, 32, sincerely believes Islam mandates Muslims pray together five times a day and federal law requires the prison to accommodate his beliefs. The motion said prayer times set by the prison during some times of year make only two daily prayers possible or make prayers impossible to perform during the proper times. A message seeking comment on the motion was left Wednesday for the Bureau of Prisons. Those housed in Lindh's unit are considered extreme security risks, and their interactions are closely mon-

itored. Until last month, inmates housed in the unit were only allowed to pray together once per week or during Ramadan or on other significant religious holidays. At other times, inmates had to pray alone in their cells and hope to hear each other through the walls. The judge found the policy violated a 1993 law banning the government from curtailing religious speech without showing a compelling interest, and the government chose not to appeal her ruling. Prison officials said during the trial on Lindh's lawsuit that allowing group prayers every day would pose a security risk and that inmates had used religion as cover for gang-like activity, but the judge dismissed those arguments as insubstantial. The lawsuit originally was filed in 2009 by two Muslim inmates in the unit. Lindh joined the lawsuit in 2010, and the case drew far more attention. The other plaintiffs dropped out as they were released from prison or transferred to other units. □

Sheriff: Knife attack at Texas college was random

JUAN A. LOZANO

RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MAST

Associated Press

CYPRESS, Texas (AP) — A man accused of stabbing more than a dozen people at a suburban Houston community college randomly selected his victims and told investigators he had been fantasizing about conducting such an attack since he was 8 years old, authorities said Wednesday. Dylan Quick, 20, has been charged with three counts of aggravated assault in the Tuesday attack at the Lone Star Community College in Cypress, a school he attended about 20 miles northwest of Houston. Sheriff Adrian Garcia said Quick has been "forthcoming" with investigators

and indicted to them that he had been planning the attack for some time. Garcia said authorities were investigating a motive but that the attacks at the school's health sciences center appeared to be random. Quick slashed at his victims with a razor utility knife, and a similar weapon was found in his backpack when he was apprehended, Quick said. Several of the 14 victims were hospitalized but all were expected to survive. Campus President Audre Levy said college police were notified of the attack at 11:13 a.m. Tuesday and that Quick was taken into custody at 11:17 a.m. Authorities said students assisted by tackling Quick and



Dylan Quick, who is a suspect in the multiple stabbings on the Lone Star Cy-Fair Campus, right, is escorted by Harris County Sheriff's Office investigators after being questioned, Tuesday, April 9, 2013, in Houston.

Associated Press

holding him down outside the health science building

until police arrived. Neighbors said Quick was a

shy young man who would say hello when he took out the trash and helped his parents to tend the yard, though he rarely came out alone. "I can't imagine what would have happened to that young man to make him do something like this. He is very normal," said Magdalena Lopez, 48, who has lived across the street from the Quick family for 15 years. The Quicks were friendly and fit in well with the other families on the block of brick, ranch-style homes. Most were aware that Quick is deaf. A street sign, "Deaf Child In Area," was posted on the block to warn drivers. "I can't believe he would do it," Lopez added. □

Brown touts Chinese investment as visit begins

BEIJING (AP) — Gov. Jerry Brown announced a \$1.5 billion Chinese investment in an Oakland construction project on Wednesday during the start of his weeklong trade mission to China.

He also signed symbolic agreements on boosting trade between California and China and helping the world's most populous nation improve its air quality. He announced at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing that China-based Zarsion Holdings Group will invest \$1.5 billion in the 65-acre housing project on the Oakland waterfront, which has been in the works since Brown was mayor of Oakland from 1999 to 2007.

Plans call for construction to start next year on 3,100 residential units, 200,000 square feet of retail and commercial space, and 30 acres of parks and open space.

Brown said the development would create up to 10,000 jobs.

"This project is just one example of what's possible when business leaders in two of the world's most dynamic regions connect," Brown said in a statement released by his office in Sacramento.

While Brown helped get the project approved as mayor, the deal with Oakland-based Signature Development Group was negotiated independently of the governor's office, the Los Angeles Times reported, although the timing of Brown's trade mission helped motivate the Chinese partners to sign the paperwork sooner.

"It meant a lot to our investor to have some sort of celebratory affair," Michael Ghielmetti, president of the Oakland-based developer, told the newspaper.

The governor also signed nonbinding agreements on trade and the environment on the second day of meetings with officials from the world's second-largest economy. He has been joined by about 90 California business leaders from a range of industries and re-



U.S. Ambassador to China Gary Locke delivers his speech on stage, as California Gov. Jerry Brown, second from left, and his wife Anne Brown, left, look on during a Trade and Investment reception at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

Associated Press

gions of the state.

The first agreement involves pursuing joint opportunities to boost trade and investment, although Brown acknowledged the state's reputation for red tape and his own limited willingness to offer tax incentives. The Democratic governor said the state's \$1.9 trillion economy remains a magnet for risk-taking investors, startup entrepreneurs and other creative people.

"There's a problem there," Brown told the American Chamber of Commerce in China. "But somebody is getting part of that \$1.9 trillion. If you don't want some of that, well then stay out."

The message contrasts with the usual sales pitches by governors who tout the advantages of their states. While Brown's administration seeks more Chinese trade and investment, California is already a well-known destination for the Chinese.

Chinese Vice Commerce Minister Wang Chao told Brown on Wednesday that a third of Chinese exports to the U.S. end up in or pass through California, and that China imports electronics, machinery, chemicals, fruit and other goods from the state.

The agreement signed Wednesday sets up a joint task force between California, China's Commerce Ministry and six Chinese provinces and regions to look for ways to expand

investment and trade. Sectors identified for cooperation include infrastructure, environmental protection, agriculture and bio- and information technology.

Brown also signed an

agreement with China's Minister of Environmental Protection, Zhou Shengxian, pledging to cooperate to improve air quality, protect public health, promote clean energy and protect the environment and natural resources.

China is known for heavy pollution, much of it from the nation's massive manufacturing industry. Earlier this year, the air quality in Beijing was rated as hazardous and residents were advised to stay inside.

Some of that pollution also makes it across the Pacific Ocean to California, cutting into Brown's own efforts for cleaner air at home.

In the springtime, about 10 to 20 percent of the total dust in high elevation sites in California is believed to come from Asia, according to the California Air Resources Board.

The cooperative agreement includes enhancing pollution control for industry and transportation, Brown's office said in a news release. □

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Liberal Jews see a victory in proposed prayer area

TIA GOLDENBERG
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli authorities have proposed establishing a new section at the Western Wall where men and women can pray together, a groundbreaking initiative that would mark a significant victory by liberal streams of Judaism in their long quest for recognition.

The proposal is aimed at ending turmoil surrounding the Orthodox establishment's monopoly over the site, highlighted by the arrests of female worshippers who prayed while performing religious rituals the Orthodox say are reserved for men.

"One Western Wall for one Jewish people," said Natan Sharansky, chairman of the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency and mastermind of the proposal. He expressed hope that the site "will once again be a symbol of unity among the Jewish people, and not one of discord and strife." While it still needs government approval, the proposal already risks upsetting Israel's powerful ultra-Orthodox community as well as the Western Wall's Muslim neighbors, reflecting the explosive mix of religious sensitivities in the area.

The Western Wall, a retaining wall of the biblical Temple compound, is the holiest site where Jews can pray. Currently, it is divided into men's and women's sections. Orthodox rabbis, who control Israel's religious institutions, oppose mixed prayers.

Under the plan, Israel would create a permanent area for mixed-gender and women-led prayer. It would be situated in an area on a lower



A woman reaches to touch a Torah scroll across a fence at the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray in Jerusalem's old city, Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

level where limited mixed prayer already is allowed, but which mainly serves as an archaeological site.

The area would be renovated with a platform that would place it at the same level as the rest of the Western Wall plaza and operate around the clock, like the men's and women's sections.

It also would be easily accessible from the main entrance to the plaza. Like the other sections, it would be stocked with Torah scrolls and prayer books. Currently, worshippers must bring their own prayer materials.

Rabbi Gilad Kariv, who heads Israel's Reform Jewish movement, said that the proposal could become a watershed moment for liberal Judaism.

"If the Israeli government embraces the solution, I think it's a breakthrough of relations between the Israeli government and the progressive Jewish world," Kariv said.

He said he believed "there

are good chances" that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new Cabinet, which does not include any ultra-Orthodox parties, will support the plan.

A spokesman for Netanyahu declined comment. But in a boost for the plan, the Western Wall's Orthodox rabbi, Shmuel Rabinowitz, endorsed the new prayer section.

"I want everyone to pray according to Orthodox Jewish religious law, but I don't interfere," Rabinowitz told Army Radio. "If these things can be done at the Western Wall without hurting others, and this can bring about compromise and serenity, I don't object."

While most Israelis are secular, Judaism has a formal place in the country's affairs, and Orthodox rabbis strictly govern religious events such as weddings, divorces and burials for the Jewish population. The ultra-Orthodox, who follow their strict brand of Judaism by promoting religious

studies over work, military service and other involvement in modern society, wield vast political power, although they make up only about 10 percent of the population.

The Orthodox rabbinate has fiercely resisted inroads by the progressive Reform and Conservative streams of Judaism, refusing to recognize their rulings, conversions or ceremonies as religiously valid.

This has led to a deepening rift with American Jews, most of whom are affiliated with the liberal streams. Nowhere has this conflict been more visible than at the Western Wall. Women of the Wall, a group that conducts monthly prayer sessions there, have endured arrests, heckling and legal battles in a struggle to attain what they consider their inalienable right — praying and worshipping at the Western Wall as men do. Under Reform and Conservative Judaism, women may be ordained as rabbis, read from the

Torah or Jewish holy book, and wear prayer shawls.

The proposal's acceptance would be the latest in a series of achievements by Reform and Conservative Jewish streams to win recognition in Israel, where their communities are small compared to the Orthodox.

Last year, Israel agreed to grant state funding to some non-Orthodox rabbis; Orthodox rabbis are paid by the government.

In 2010, the Israeli government froze a controversial bill that would have strengthened Orthodox control over Jewish conversions. The same year, Israel began allowing Israelis with no declared religion to marry outside the strict religious establishment — giving hope to many who reject the Orthodox monopoly on family matters. Civil marriages are generally banned in Israel.

These small steps toward recognition, including the new plan, have angered some in the ultra-Orthodox community, who see such concessions as part of a slippery slope that could threaten their customs.

"The moment we allow these groups a foothold, then tomorrow they will start to restrain us in our own synagogues, in the name of democracy, in the name of liberalism and in the name of pluralism," said Shmuel Poppenheim, an ultra-Orthodox activist who serves as a spokesman for the community.

The plan was also criticized by the Muslim religious authority that oversees the nearby Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. Any Israeli changes to the compound, real or perceived, have set off violent clashes in the past. □

Dutch recall 50,000 tons of meat across Europe

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) —

Dutch authorities are recalling 50,000 tons of meat sold as beef across Europe because its exact source cannot be established and it may contain horse meat, a spokeswoman said Wednesday.

The announcement was the latest development in a far-reaching scandal that saw horse meat mixed in with other meats

and sold as beef across the continent without informing consumers. The scandal led to recalls of products ranging from frozen lasagna to Ikea's Swedish meatballs.

In all, 370 different companies around Europe and 132 more in the Netherlands are affected by the latest recall because they bought meat from two Dutch trading companies, said Esther Filon of the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety

Authority.

The food authority said in a statement that because the exact source of the meat cannot be traced "its safety cannot be guaranteed." The statement added that Dutch authorities have "no concrete indications that there is a risk to public health."

Filon said the recall covers meat dating back to Jan. 1, 2011, up until Feb. 15 this year, when the companies at the heart of the recall



Food samples are tested for any possible traces of horse meat at a veterinary laboratory in Prague, Czech Republic, in this file photo dated Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2013. Associated Press

Gay attack victim in France becomes cause celebre



Wilfred de Bruijn, a Dutch citizen who lives and works as a librarian in Paris, France, speaks during an interview with The Associated Press at his apartment in Paris, Wednesday, April 10, 2013. Associated Press

THOMAS ADAMSON

Associated Press writer

PARIS (AP) — The shocking photo of a homophobic attack victim in Paris that went viral on social media this week and caused the French interior minister to weigh in was used as an emblem in a pro-gay rally Wednesday evening.

The bloody image of Wilfred de Bruijn's cut and bruised face was brandished by gay groups during a demonstration of several thousand people as evidence of their claim that homophobic acts have tripled nationwide over opposition to a law legalizing gay marriage.

This week, the French senate will conclude its debate on a controversial law — which is expected to pass — legalizing same-sex

marriage and adoption. It's been a rocky run since it was unveiled last November by President Francois Hollande's Socialists and split the majority-Catholic country.

But whichever way the Senate votes, the image of De Bruijn's battered face has made for a symbolic end to five months of vocal protests.

De Bruijn was beaten unconscious near his home early Sunday in central Paris, sustaining five fractures in his head and face, abrasions and a lost tooth. His boyfriend, who was also beaten up, witnessed three to four men shouting "Hey, look they're gays," before they attacked. The incident has shocked France, and garnered support far and wide as a gay "cause celebre." "I certainly feel there's been an increase in homophobia," De Bruijn told The Associated Press at his apartment in Paris' working class 19th district, where the attack took place. "What (the anti-gay marriage campaign) are saying is that they're not homophobic: lesbians and gays are nice people, but don't let them get close to children — that's very dangerous. It's okay for them to live together, but not like other couples with the same protection because it's not really the same thing," De Bruijn said.

"These people are all professionals of the spoken

word. They know very well what can happen if you repeat, repeat, repeat that these people are lower human beings. Of course it will have a result."

In light of the attack — which has forced members of the anti-gay marriage campaign to defend themselves — 30 gay associations organized the anti-homophobia rally for Wednesday. Associations SOS Homophobia and Refuge have used De Bruijn's case to highlight the spike they've recorded in homophobia since the gay marriage bill was announced last year. Both associations report that homophobic acts — verbal and physical — in the first three months of 2013 have tripled compared with the same period in 2012.

Meanwhile, Frigide Barjot, the stage name of an activist who has led protests against the bill, insisted the anti-gay marriage movement is opposed to violence. Speaking on RMC radio Wednesday, Barjot was careful to distance herself from a right-wing movement called the "French Spring," whose name was supposedly inspired by the revolutionary values of 2011's "Arab Spring."

"We don't want violence. We denounce this violence and these acts, we have nothing to do with (Catholic) fundamentalists or extremists," she said. □

were placed under heightened scrutiny and faced criminal investigations.

She conceded that — because the recall dates back more than two years — some of the meat "may already have been consumed." Filon said authorities are bound by law to recall the meat if it is unclear where exactly it came from.

"If meat has an unclear source then the law — the general food law — says it is no longer fit for human or animal food," she told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Dutch authorities began a large-scale investigation into the country's meat in-

dustry in February after the horse meat scandal broke across Europe.

The authority named two companies with the same owner as the source of the meat covered by Wednesday's recall: Wiljo Import en Export B.V. and Vleesgroot-handel Willy Selten B.V.

Calls to Willy Selten went unanswered Wednesday.

It was not immediately clear how much of the meat is likely to be tracked down. Dutch authorities say they have no plans to test all the meat. The recall covers countries including France, Germany and Spain and the nations involved are responsible for managing it. □

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Second camp for Syrian refugees opens in Jordan

DALE GAVLAK
Associated Press

MRAJEEB AL-FHOOD, Jordan (AP) — Struggling to cope with the influx of Syrian refugees, Jordan on Wednesday opened a second camp for Syrians fleeing the civil war at home.

The kingdom has sheltered nearly half a million refugees who escaped the two-year conflict but officials fear that the number of Syrians could double in the next six months as the fighting escalates as the weather becomes warmer.

Since the beginning of the year, an average of 1,500 to 2,000 Syrians have been pouring into Jordan daily. Initially, the kingdom was reluctant to set up refugee camps, possibly to avoid angering Syrian President Bashar Assad's autocratic regime by showing images at his doorstep of civilians fleeing his military onslaught against them.

But last summer, Jordan opened the Zaatari refugee camp close to the Syrian border. And on Wednesday, a second desert camp — this one funded by the United Arab Emirates and run by



A newly-arrived Syrian refugee boy carries his family's belongings to the new Jordanian Emirati refugee camp, Mrajeeb al-Fhood, in Zarqa, Jordan, Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

Associated Press.

its Red Crescent Society — opened its doors in Mrajeeb al-Fhood, about 37 kilometers (23 miles) from the border, and welcomed its first batch of 110 Syrians.

One of the first to enter was Ahmed al-Hassan, 30, a butcher who fled Syria with his wife and two young sons. He said it took them four days to reach Jordan after escaping the Baba Amr neighborhood in the central city of Homs.

They travelled on foot, at first along Syria's border with Iraq, hitching rides and

occasionally hiding in shops to escape government forces. Behind them, he said, they left a wasteland that was recently recaptured by Assad's troops.

"There is nothing left there," said al-Hassan, hugging his sons who appeared apprehensive of the new surroundings. The rest of the family stayed behind in Baba Amr. "The Syrian military destroyed homes and buildings. The dead have been left to rot in the streets."

Other refugees appeared

too frightened to speak to journalists but the children quickly became cheerful after Emirati Red Crescent workers distributed food, colorful building blocks and other plastic toys.

Majed Sultan bin Sulieman, the society's relief director at the camp, said Mrajeeb al-Fhood will initially host 5,000 refugees but can be expanded to about 25,000 residents — all living in trailers. Anmar Hmoud, a Jordanian government spokesman for Syrian refugee affairs, called Wednes-

day a "soft opening," adding that more Syrians would soon fill up the site.

Sulieman said the Emirati government will cover all the expenses of hosting the refugees at the camp, including food, clothing, basic goods and medical aid. Dr. Mohamed al-Der'ee, the chief of an Emirati clinic set up at the camp, says his team of more than two dozen doctors, nurses and lab technicians will handle pediatric, dental, pharmaceutical and internal medical care for the residents. The team also included Jordanian and Syrian health workers, said the U.S.-trained al-Der'ee.

Unlike Zaatari, which now has over 100,000 Syrian refugees, the new camp is a small facility where the U.N. refugee agency's only role will be to register newcomers and provide protection activities to support the most vulnerable, according to Mathilde Tiberghien, a UNHCR official.

Zaatari, overseen by the Jordanian government and UNHCR, has mushroomed into Jordan's fifth largest city and it has seen an increasing number of reports of crime, including prostitution and drug-dealing. □

Japan, Taiwan sign deal over disputed islands

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Japan has agreed to give Taiwanese fishing rights in waters near a group of Japanese-controlled islands in the East China Sea that are also claimed by China and Taiwan.

In a deal signed Wednesday, Japan agreed to let

Taiwanese boats fish in a part of its exclusive economic zone near the islands. They are known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China.

A Taiwan government statement hailed the deal as enabling the sides to jointly tap the rich resources there.

Japan's compromise could be seen as a way to prevent Taiwan from forming a united front with China in the dispute, though Taiwan has also disputed China's territorial claim.

Taiwan and China split amid civil war in 1949. □



In this Sept. 24, 2012 file photo, a fisherman raises a Taiwanese national flag as several dozen fishing boats set out from the Suao harbor, northeastern Taiwan, to the disputed islands in the East China Sea. Associated Press

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Malawian government harshly criticizes Madonna

RAPHAEL TENTHANI
Associated Press

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP) — Malawi issued a scathing critique of pop diva Madonna on Wednesday, accusing her of exaggerating her contributions to the southern African country and demanding special treatment during her tour there last week.

A spokesman for the pop star denied the accusations and suggested they were prompted by the recent removal of the president's sister as head of Madonna's humanitarian organization there.

The singer has a long history with the country, which she first visited in 2006. She adopted two children from Malawi and runs several projects there. She was granted VIP treatment during previous visits, including when she last jetted into the country on April 1. But Madonna apparently was surprised when she learned upon leaving Malawi that she and her travelling party would have to line up with ordinary passengers and be frisked by airport security. "There was a directive that Miss Louise Ciccone, travelling on an American passport, and her children Lourdes Maria Ciccone Leon, Rocco Ritchie, Mercy James, David Banda Ciccone Ritchie should use the ordinary passenger terminal on their way to their jet," said an aviation official who refused to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

A strongly worded statement by the president's office accused Madonna of

trying to use her fame and money to press Malawi into giving her special treatment.

"Granted, Madonna is a famed international musician. But that does not impose an injunction of obligation on any government under whose territory Madonna finds herself, including Malawi, to give her state treatment. Such treatment, even if she deserved it, is discretionary not obligatory," the statement said.

The presidential statement also questioned Madonna's intentions behind her humanitarian efforts in Malawi, alleging that the singer "wants Malawi to be forever chained to the obligation of gratitude."

"Kindness, as far as its ordinary meaning is concerned, is free and anonymous. If it can't be free and silent, it is not kindness; it is something else. Blackmail is the closest it becomes," the statement said.

President Joyce Banda was reportedly angered by Madonna's claims that she has built 10 schools in Malawi, and questioned that statement in widely quoted remarks last week.

"Where are the 10 schools she has built? She is just building school blocks at already existing schools. In some cases she just renovated an already existing block. This is an insult to the people of Malawi. She can't be lying to the world at our expense," Banda said.

A spokesman for Madonna expressed surprise at the most recent criticism and called the claim that the

singer had requested special treatment "nonsense." "Obviously these attacks are influenced by the fact that the president's sister was removed as the head of Madonna's organization in Malawi due to concerns about mismanagement of \$3.8 million," said Trevor Neilson, whose Global Philanthropy Group is managing Madonna's projects in Malawi.

"As the largest private philanthropist to Malawi we would think that the government would be pleased that she is giving her time and money to one of the poorest countries in the world," Neilson said.

The statement from the president's office dismissed the claim that Banda is angry because her younger sister, Anjimile Mtila-Oponyo, was fired as the CEO for Madonna's charity, Raising Malawi.

The presidential statement said Malawi has played host to other international stars like Chuck Norris, Bono and soccer stars Rio Ferdinand and Gary Neville "who have never demanded state attention or decorum despite their equally dazzling stature."

Despite the furor, Madonna seemed unfazed. "My reasons for being here have never changed, I am here because I care deeply about the children of Malawi, that is my main priority," she said last week at the end of her trip.

Madonna traveled there with her two adopted Malawian children, David Banda and Mercy James, both 8, and her children Lourdes, 14, and Rocco, 12. □



U.S. performer Madonna, centre, tours the Mphandura orphanage near Lilongwe, Malawi, Friday April 5, 2013. Madonna, is spending her fourth day in the southern African country from where she adopted two children David Banda, right and Mercy James, left.

Associated Press

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Second Course

SOUP OF THE DAY
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Under the radar, Cuba and U.S. often work together

PAUL HAVEN

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba and the United States may be longtime enemies with a bucket overflowing with grievances, but the fast return of a Florida couple who fled U.S. authorities with their two kidnapped children in tow shows the Cold War enemies are capable of remarkable cooperation on many issues. Indeed, diplomats and observers on both sides of the Florida Straits say American and Cuban law enforcement officers, scientists, disaster relief workers, Coast Guard officials and other experts work together on a daily basis, and invariably express professional admiration for each other.

"I don't think the story has been told, but there is a real warmth in just the sort of day-to-day relations between U.S. and Cuban government officials," said Dan Whittle, who frequently brings scientific groups to the island in his role as Cuba program director for the Environmental Defense Fund.

"Nearly every time I talk to American officials they say they were impressed by their Cuban counterparts. There really is a high level of mutual respect."

Almost none of these technical-level interactions make the headlines, but examples are endless.

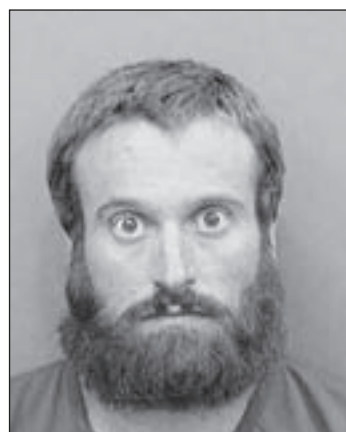
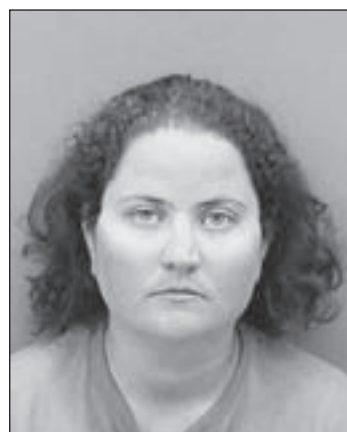
Just last week, Cuba's top environmental official Ulises Fernandez and several island oil experts attended a conference in New York of the International Association of Drilling Contractors after the State Department expedited their visas.

And in March, Cuba's leading weatherman, Jose Rubiera, traveled to North Carolina on a fast-track visa to give a talk about hurricane evacuation procedures. Last year's Hurricane Sandy, which slammed Cuba's eastern city of Santiago before devastating the northeastern United States, was a cruel reminder that nature cares not about man's political squabbles. The American government maintains a Coast Guard



Sharyn Hakken, second from left, and Joshua Hakken, second from right, are taken into booking by Hillsborough County Sheriff Officers at the Orient Road Jail after being brought in from Cuba early Wednesday morning, April 10, 2013.

Associated Press



This photo provided by Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office shows Joshua Michael Hakken. Hakken, left, and his wife, Sharyn, accused of kidnapping their two young sons and fleeing by boat to Cuba, were handed over to the United States and their children were returned to the maternal grandparents who have official custody, authorities said Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

Associated Press

representative in Cuba, and the two countries work together to interdict suspicious boats.

A U.S. diplomat involved in the process told The Associated Press that security officials on both sides are on a first-name basis, and that the Cubans happily accept FBI and Coast Guard baseball caps as gifts. He and other diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss bilateral issues publicly, but all said they had noticed a thaw in daily interactions that belies the subzero temperatures that characterize official relations.

The two countries have been at odds since shortly after Fidel Castro's bearded rebels marched into Havana in January 1959 and

confrontation over the fate of jailed American contractor Alan Gross, who the Cubans want to exchange for five of their intelligence agents sentenced to long jail terms in the U.S.

Angry barbs between Havana and Washington on issues such as democracy, human rights and sovereignty are still the norm, and even delivering each other's mail is a challenge. The countries, separated by just 90 miles of warm Caribbean seas, long-ago ended direct service.

"There are so many weird

normal happens it is a surprise," said Carlos Alzugaray, a former Cuban diplomat.

He said Cuba has in recent years taken a pragmatic approach, more often than not cooperating on drug enforcement and judicial issues, something he hoped would one day lead to better ties.

"It is important to highlight ... that in judicial matters there is a willingness to cooperate and that could open a path to other types of cooperation," he said, citing the return of Joshua Michael Hakken and his wife, Sharyn, as a case in point.

Cuba is believed to harbor dozens of American fugitives from the 1960s and 1970s, many of them veterans of domestic militant groups like the Black Panthers.

But Havana has clearly shown in recent years that it has no interest in becoming a refuge for common criminals — deporting suspected murderers, child molesters and kidnappers who were foolish enough to think they would be beyond U.S. law enforcement's reach.

The Hakkens are accused of kidnapping their young sons from the custody of Sharyn's parents and sailing with them and his wife to Havana. Cuba promptly informed the State Department of the couple's weekend arrival on the island, and worked with U.S. officials to send the family home swiftly.

Both sides praised the joint effort.

"We would like to express our appreciation to the Cuban authorities for their extensive cooperation to resolve this dangerous situation quickly," the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, which Washington maintains instead of an embassy, wrote in a Wednesday statement.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell termed cooperation as "extensive," but said the case should not be taken as a sign of political opening. □



Robert and Pat Hauser, the grandparents of Chase and Cole Hakken, talk to the media Tuesday, April 9, 2013 during a press conference at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

began to set up a Communist state. Washington has maintained an economic embargo on the island for 51 years.

More recently, the countries have been locked in

and abnormal aspects of the relationship between Cuba and the United States, things that don't occur between other countries, that when something



Aruba say's "Masha Danki" to the Beyar family



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Atca delegates get "Groovy" at Aruba Marriott's welcome reception



PALM BEACH, ARUBA (APRIL 10, 2013) – Big hair, large sun glasses, bright colorful décor and groovy beats set the ambiance for Marriott's 70s/80s welcome reception for the Annual Tourism Conference Aruba (ATCA). Over 80 ATCA delegates including the top wholesalers, travel agents and airline partners gathered annually in Aruba to network with the Aruba Hotels and Tourism Association (AHATA) members and Aruba's Destination Management companies. The Aruba Marriott brought back the 70s/80s theme with the groovy sounds of live band "the TRAMPS" and DJ Miniteca N.B. Participants danced the night away and enjoyed the delicious food. Marriott's Director of Sales & Marketing Antoinette van den Berg and Hotel Manager Matt Knights welcomed the participants and thanked them for their continuous support in Aruba and the Marriott. The ATCA conference ends on Thursday April 11.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms each with private balconies overlooking cascading waterfalls, a free form swimming pool and tranquil Caribbean waters. Guest exclusivity is attainable on the eighth floor through the Tradewinds Club, a boutique, 'hotel-within-a-hotel' concept that is paired perfectly with the new adults-only pool and lounge area. On property dining options range from light to elegant with seven restaurants and cafes, while entertainment and relaxation can be achieved in the island's largest casino, or in the 6,500 square-foot spa. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 1.800.228.9290 or visit www.arubamarriott.com or www.tradewindsclubaruba.com. Connect with the Aruba Marriott's official Facebook fan page by visiting www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott and follow on Twitter @ArubaMarriott. □

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Team Aruba continues to popularize the 'Happy Island'

UNION, S.C. April 10, 2013: The Extreme Pro Stock Team from Aruba has a rather unique purpose among drag racing. While being successful on track is certainly among their top goals, this team also exists for another reason - to promote their island paradise home. Fans that walk by their pits are immediately drawn in by the sensation of bright colors of the Aruba.com Mustang and hauler and surrounding island-themed decor. The team themselves, a true reflection of the 'happy island', pique the interests of racers and fans alike. And a quick tour of the Team's Facebook or Twitter pages will quickly have one longing for white sands and tropical breezes. Any interaction with this Team is sure to draw interest in an Aruba vacation. Already many racers and fans have visited Aruba based on the recommendation

of the Eman family and Team Aruba, including Pro Mod legend Harold Martin and former Pro Stock World Champions. Most recently Brud Benecke, crew member for John Pluchino, ventured to Aruba for an island getaway. He spoke enthusiastically about his trip: "Over the last three years I've become really good friends with Team Aruba. They kept encouraging me to come down to Aruba, so finally I decided to take my fiancée there on vacation. It was truly one of the best trips we've ever had. Everyone on the island was very accommodating and nice. Ven [Eman] went out of his way to show us around. We had a wonderful time and will certainly do it again. Our hotel accommodations were great. It was a peaceful vacation. We didn't have to worry about rain. Out of all the places I've been Aruba was the most accommodating



and certainly a favorite. The only reason I went was because of Team Aruba, but now I will definitely go back. I also got a really, really good price by taking Team Aruba's recommendation and going through Player's Choice Tours." Guy Gemore of Player's

Choice Tours strictly sales Aruba vacation packages and has received many vacationers at the recommendation of Team Aruba. Another of Pluchino's crew members, Bill Madden, booked a vacation through Guy Gemore and ended up buying a time-

share in Aruba. For more information on your next vacation email guy@playerschoicetours.com. The Team Aruba tour continues this weekend for the Hardee's ADRL Georgia Drags, April 13-14 at South Georgia Motorsports Park. □

BONUS



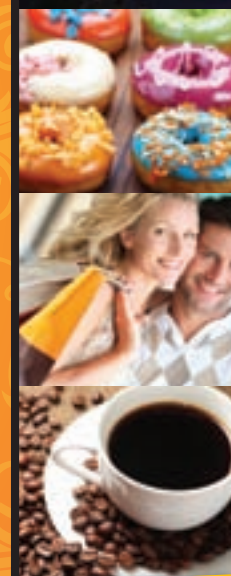
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Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring: Diane and John Liss resident of Boothwyn Pennsylvania as Distinguished Visitors
Ron Mayes and Janice Mayes resident of Webster Massachusetts as Goodwill Ambassadors
Francis J. and Kathleen A. Prasse resident of Walpole Massachusetts as Distinguished Visitors
The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a

token of appreciation to guest who visit Aruba for 10 and 20 or more consecutive years.
The certificate was presented by Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority with the activities coordinator Mrs. Sharline Charles at La Cabana Beach Resort.
Top reason for returning provided by the honorees were the Fantastic Sunset, Beautiful Blue Ocean, Friendly Aruban Hospitality and local Restaurant. □



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ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



Joe Torre, top, MLB Executive Vice President of Baseball Operations, jokes around with St. Louis Cardinals teammate Bob Gibson, Wednesday, April 10, 2013, in La Vista, Neb.
Associated Press

Joe Torre says baseball belongs back in Olympics

ERIC OLSON
AP Sports Writer

LA VISTA, Nebraska (AP) —

Joe Torre's first experience in international baseball convinced him that the sport should be back in the Olympics.

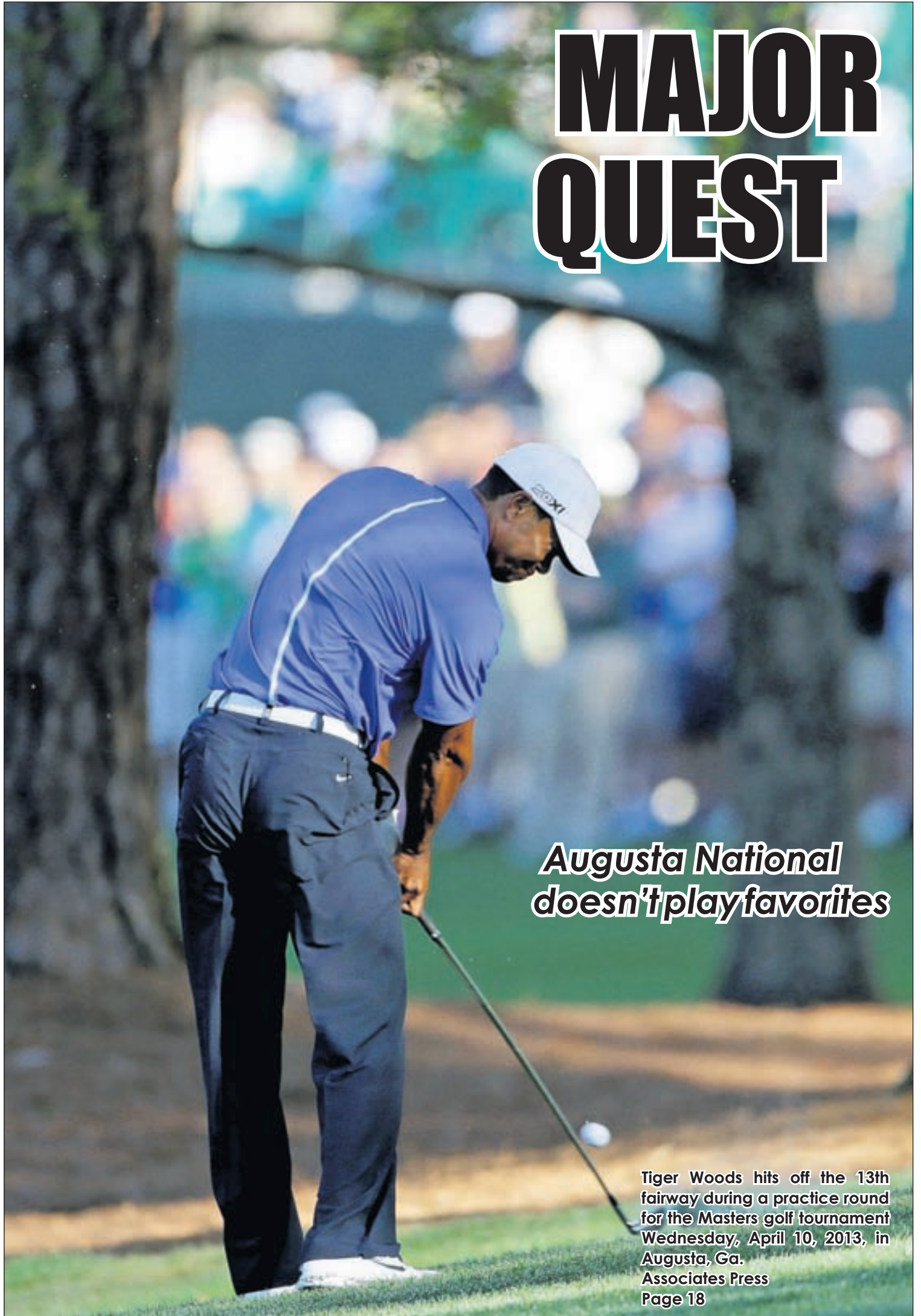
Torre managed the United States in the World Baseball Classic last month and said he was impressed with how invested the players were in the games even though they had to leave spring training to participate.

The Americans lost in the semifinals of the 16-nation tournament. The Dominican Republic defeated Puerto Rico in the final.

"The World Baseball Classic has showed you the three times it's been played that other countries have caught on and done a pretty good job of playing baseball," Torre said.

Torre is a Major League Baseball executive vice president but not directly involved in MLB's efforts to return the sport to the Olympics.

Continued on Page 19



MAJOR QUEST

Augusta National doesn't play favorites

Tiger Woods hits off the 13th fairway during a practice round for the Masters golf tournament Wednesday, April 10, 2013, in Augusta, Ga.
Associates Press
Page 18

The Masters not always kind to favorites

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) —

The first tee shot clattered through a pair of pines on the left side of the 13th fairway, finally landing on the wrong side of Rae's Creek. Tiger Woods tried again, and this wasn't any better. Fans peered across the fairway and only heard the ball rattle through some bushes.

"He's hitting another one," a man announced from the gallery.

The third shot with a fairway metal caused them to retreat until it turned with a slight draw, clipping a pine branch and settling in the second cut of rough.

Woods played nine holes Wednesday morning in his final tuneup for the Masters, and how he played was of little consequence. Even so, that snapshot from the 13th tee was another reminder how quickly the best plans can fall apart, even for the No. 1 player on top of his game, especially at Augusta National. Think back to Woods at his absolute best.

He won 10 times in 2000, including three majors, and finished no worse than fifth in 19 of his 22 tournaments worldwide. Going into the Masters, he either won or finished second in 10 of his previous 11 PGA Tour events. It felt as though everyone was playing for second at Augusta that year.

What happened?

Woods made a double bogey and a triple bogey in a



From left, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player walk together during the par three competition before the Masters golf tournament Wednesday, April 10, 2013, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

span of three holes, shot 75 in the opening round and never caught up.

The hype over Woods is not that strong this year, though there is no doubt who is driving the conversation.

Those who have played with him on the course or hit balls next to him on the range talked about how he never missed a shot. His putting has been pure since he got that tip from Steve Stricker last month at Doral. And it shows in the scores. Woods has won his last two tournaments, at Doral and Bay Hill, and neither was terribly close.

When the Masters begins on Thursday, he is the odds-on favorite to end his five-year drought in the majors, and win a green jacket for the first time since 2005.

Trouble is, Augusta National doesn't play favorites.

"Obviously, Tiger is Tiger,"

said Scott Piercy, who will play alongside Woods and Luke Donald in the opening two rounds. "He's always going to be that target. He knows it, and that's how he wants it. But there's a lot of people getting closer. And the golfing gods, or whatever you want to call them, have a lot to do with winning. A bounce here, a bounce there. A lip in, a lip out."

Angel Cabrera got one of those bounces off a pine tree and back into the 18th fairway in 2009 that helped him save par and win a playoff on the next hole. Sure, he was a former U.S. Open champion, but the big Argentine was No. 69 in the world that year, the lowest-ranked player to ever win the Masters.

The hole got in the way twice for Charl Schwartzel in 2011, once on a chip across the first green that

fell for birdie, another a shot from the third fairway that dropped for eagle. He finished with four straight birdies to win.

It has been 11 years since the No. 1 player in the world — Woods — won the Masters.

There is always the usual assortment of players who seem to contend every year for a green jacket. Phil Mickelson is a three-time Masters champion, his most recent in 2010 when he arrived at Augusta National without having come close to winning that year. Fred Couples was tied for the 36-hole lead last year at age 52. Rory McIlroy has shown he can play the course, at least on the weekdays. Lee Westwood has been among the top three twice since 2010.

Three-time Masters champion Nick Faldo didn't name them all, but his list

kept growing when he talked about 20 players who could win the Masters, all from what he referred to as the second tier and described as "pretty darn good."

Justin Rose, Ian Poulter and Luke Donald. Brandt Snedeker and Bill Haas. Louis Oosthuizen and Schwartzel.

"Yes, Tiger is the favorite," Faldo said. "He's strong. He's determined. We will see. But he's going to be chased by a lot of really good players."

Woods is annoyed that seven Masters have come and gone since he last sat in Butler Cabin with his green jacket, though he looks at his record and isn't worried. He keeps giving himself chances, and he figures one of these years, everything will fall into place.

Woods has broken 70 only once in his 16 years at Augusta as a pro. His average score is 71.9.

But he's still the guy to beat.

"I think everybody has the same thought on Tiger: We'll worry about that Sunday afternoon," Snedeker said. "I'm sure he's going to be up there." □

I think everybody has a complete idea of knowing he's probably playing the best golf in the world right now, hands down. If I'm there Sunday afternoon with Tiger Woods at some point ... it's probably going to be a good week because he's going to be somewhere close." □

Roger Federer commits to hometown Swiss Indoors event

BASEL, Switzerland (AP) — Roger Federer says he will play at the Swiss Indoors in October, ending speculation he could skip his hometown tournament in a contractual dispute.

Federer tells Swiss daily Tagess Anzeiger that "everyone knows how much this tournament means to me, and

that is still true."

The five-time champion says "I never said that I wouldn't play in Basel.

And now I'm trying to make this complicated issue simpler."

Federer's contract with the event ended after losing last year's final to Juan Martin del Potro.

Swiss media reported that Federer's management sought a seven-figure fee and couldn't reach an agreement with tournament organizers.

The 31-year-old Federer says "I can play in Basel without any kind of contract or agreement, if I feel like it, and I do." □



This is a Sunday, Oct. 28, 2012 file photo of Switzerland's Roger Federer as he returns a ball to Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro during their final match at the Swiss Indoors tennis tournament at the St. Jakobshalle in Basel, Switzerland.

Associated Press

Knicks win first Atlantic division title since 1994

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Knicks romped to their first Atlantic Division title since 1994, getting 36 points from Carmelo Anthony and beating the Washington Wizards 120-99 on Tuesday night for their 13th straight victory.

Anthony put this one away with 21 points during the Knicks' 37-point third quarter that gave them a 95-71 lead. The NBA's scoring leader added eight rebounds and six assists while becoming the first Knick since newly elected Hall of Famer Bernard King with five straight 35-point games.

Iman Shumpert added 18 points for the Knicks, who negated a height disadvantage by tying a franchise record with 20 3-pointers. J.R. Smith and Chris Copeland each added 17 points.

On their longest winning streak since winning 15 in a row from March 1 to April 2, 1994, the Knicks can tie the franchise record of 18 in a row, set early in their first NBA championship season of 1969-70, by winning their final five games.

John Wall scored 33 points for the Wizards.

HEAT 94, BUCKS 83

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James scored 28 points,



Washington Wizards' John Wall (2) goes up past New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at Madison Square Garden in New York. Associated Press

Udonis Haslem had 10 points and 15 rebounds and Miami moved a step closer to wrapping up home-court advantage in the playoffs with a win over Milwaukee.

The Heat tied a franchise single-season record by winning for the 61st time, getting there with five games remaining. Miami needs only one more win or one San Antonio loss to clinch the top overall seed for the entirety of the playoffs.

Norris Cole and Ray Allen each scored 11 for the Heat, who played without

an injured Dwyane Wade and an ill Chris Bosh.

Brandon Jennings scored 30 points for the Bucks, who will likely meet Miami in the first round.

THUNDER 90, JAZZ 80

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Russell Westbrook scored 25 points, Kevin Durant added 21 and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Utah Jazz 90-80 on Tuesday night.

The Thunder continued their push to claim the top overall seed in the West, while the Jazz fell into a tie with the Lakers for the final playoff spot in the West. Utah own the tiebreaker

over the Lakers.

Paul Millsap's dunk pulled Utah within four, but Durant hit two free throws and Westbrook stole the inbound pass to seal it for the Thunder.

Mo Williams led the Jazz with 19 points.

PACERS 99, CAVALIERS 94

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — George Hill scored 27 points and David West added 15 to help Indiana rally from a 20-point deficit for a win over Cleveland.

Paul George chipped in with 14 points, Lance Stephenson had 13 and Tyler Hansbrough 12 for the Pac-

ers, who can clinch the No. 3 seed in the East with a win over the Brooklyn Nets on Friday.

Kyrie Irving scored 29 points and Indiana native Tyler Zeller had 18 before fouling out midway through the fourth quarter for Cleveland, which allowed the Pacers to break off a 25-4 run in the fourth for a 93-92 lead.

George hit s 3 with 29.9 seconds left and Jeff Pendergraph drew a charge on Irving to seal it.

GRIZZLIES 94, BOBCATS 75

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)

— Mike Conley scored 20 points, Zach Randolph had 11 points and 13 rebounds, and Memphis beat Charlotte.

Memphis won its 13th straight at home, tying a franchise record with its 31st home win.

Kemba Walker scored 19 points to lead the Bobcats, and Gerald Henderson had 13.

The Grizzlies led 63-60 early in the fourth quarter before pulling away behind a 15-0 run generated mostly by their reserves. Seldom-used Jon Leuer had seven points during the run and finished with 11. Memphis, which leads the NBA in scoring defense (89.7 points per game), held Charlotte to 37.7 percent shooting. □

Joe Torre

Continued from Page 17

Baseball and softball have been out of the Games since 2008 and have merged in a bid to return in 2020. They are competing against seven other sports for a single spot on the program. The IOC board will meet next month in St. Petersburg, Russia, to select one or more sports to submit for final consideration to the IOC general assembly in September.

"I'm a realist. I'd like to believe it will happen," Torre said.

"The reason I can't give you better than that is because I'd like to be sitting across the table and trying to make a case for it, and

I'm sort of on the sidelines. That's not a criticism. That's the way we're set up in MLB."

Torre said that while Japan, Cuba and Taiwan along with the United States, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic are the elite baseball-playing nations, the Netherlands and Brazil are among the nations improving rapidly.

"To me, it's really disappointing if we don't get people's attention by what's been going on in the world and how many more countries are getting interested in promoting the game of baseball," Torre said.



Joe Torre, MLB Executive Vice President of Baseball Operations, speaks, Wednesday, April 10, 2013, in La Vista, Neb. Torre said his experience as manager of Team USA in the World Baseball Classic has convinced him that the sport belongs in the Olympics.

Associated Press

Though the WBC was overshadowed by spring training and the college basketball tournament in the United States, WBC orga-

nizers said the event exceeded global broadcast and ticket sales targets.

"You look at how they filled the ballparks in Puer-

to Rico and Japan when they were playing there," Torre said. Torre said there probably isn't a better time of year to play the WBC, which will next be held in 2017. He said it would be too much to ask major leaguers to play the WBC late in the year after many of them had played 200 spring-training and regular-season games and playoffs. "Right now, unless somebody says something to me that sort of strikes a chord, we're just going to have to keep doing this," he said. Torre said he would not be in favor of eliminating the All-Star Game and putting the major league season on hiatus for three weeks at midseason in years when the WBC is played. □

Yankees hit 5 home runs, clobber Indians 14-1

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Robinson Cano hit one of New York's five homers and drove in five runs, Andy Pettitte pitched seven solid innings and the Yankees romped to a 14-1 win Tuesday night over the Cleveland Indians, who had starter Carlos Carrasco ejected from his first appearance since 2011.

AL Capsules The 40-year-old Pettitte (2-0) allowed one run and five hits in his second strong start.

Cano hit a two-run double in the second off Carrasco (0-1) and connected for his third homer in two days in the fourth. Following Cano's two-run homer, Carrasco, who just served a five-game suspension for throwing at a hitter in 2011, drilled Kevin Youkilis in the shoulder with a pitch and got tossed.

Youkilis and Brennan Boesch hit two-run homers, and Ichiro Suzuki and Lyle Overbay had solo shots for the Yankees.

TIGERS 7, BLUE JAYS 3

DETROIT (AP) — AL MVP Miguel Cabrera hit his first homer of the season and drove in four runs, left fielder Don Kelly made a home run-robbing catch and the



New York Yankees' Robinson Cano watches his two-run double off Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Carlos Carrasco in the second inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, April 9, 2013, in Cleveland. Indians catcher Yan Gomes is at left. Associated Press

Detroit Tigers beat the Toronto Blue Jays.

The Blue Jays, who spent millions during the winter to upgrade their roster, fell to 2-5 for their worst start since 2004. Cabrera, coming off his Triple Crown season, had four hits and scored three times.

Torii Hunter had three hits, including the 2,000th of his career, and Alex Avila homered.

Kelly took away a home run from J.P. Arencibia leading off the second. Anibal Sanchez (1-0) struck out eight in seven innings.

He allowed two runs and five hits with one walk. Joaquin Benoit worked the ninth and gave up Cody Rasmus' solo home run.

Brandon Morrow (0-1) gave up five runs and nine hits in 3 2-3 innings.

RANGERS 6, RAYS 1

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Nick Tepesch pitched into the eighth inning in his major league debut, Lance Berkman had a key two-run single among three hits and the Texas Rangers beat the Tampa Bay Rays. Tepesch retired 12 straight batters before hesitat-

ing to pick up a slow roller from Kelly Johnson that went for a one-out single in the eighth. The 24-year-old right-hander left to a standing ovation after Desmond Jennings followed with his second double of the game.

Tepesch (1-0) allowed four hits and a run with three walks and five strikeouts.

Roberto Hernandez (0-2) gave up eight hits and six runs — five earned — in 6 2-3 innings.

ROYALS 7, TWINS 4

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP) — Jeremy Guthrie won his career-best seventh straight decision, dating to last season, and Alcides Escobar had three hits and an RBI as the Kansas City Royals beat the Minnesota Twins.

The Royals, who had not scored in the first two innings in their first seven games, sent nine to the plate in a five-run first. Mike Pelfrey (1-1) gave up hits to the first five batters he faced.

Joe Mauer, Josh Willingham and Eduardo Escobar each hit solo homers to keep the Twins close.

Guthrie (2-0) improved to 7-0 in his past 13 starts dating to last August. He al-

lowed four runs on six hits, including the three home runs, in 6 2-3 innings.

Greg Holland picked up the save, but not before walking two and giving up a single to Escobar, his third hit, to load the bases. Holland struck out Mauer to end the game.

ATHLETICS 9, ANGELS 5

ANAHEIM, California (AP)

— Pinch-hitter John Jaso had a go-ahead, three-run homer in the seventh inning, and the Oakland Athletics blew a four-run lead before rallying to beat the Los Angeles Angels in the majors' final home opener. Brandon Moss had three hits and drove in four runs, delivering an early two-run single before adding a two-run homer after Jaso's shot. Coco Crisp also hit his fourth homer for the A's, who have won six straight after an 0-2 start.

Josh Hamilton went 0 for 4 with a sacrifice fly in his home debut for the big-budget Angels, who dropped to 2-5.

Howie Kendrick had three hits and capped Los Angeles' three-run rally in the sixth with a tiebreaking triple off Ryan Cook (1-0). Albert Pujols reached base four times for the Angels. □

Medlen pitches streaking Braves past Marlins 3-2

The Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Kris Medlen allowed only an unearned run in seven innings Tuesday night, and the Atlanta Braves earned their fifth consecutive victory by beating the punchless Miami Marlins 3-2.

The Braves improved to 7-1, their best start since 2007. The Marlins fell to 1-7 with their fourth consecutive defeat, and they're off to their worst start since the 1998 team began the season 1-11. Evan Gattis hit his second homer and Justin Upton doubled home a run.

Craig Kimbrel pitched around a leadoff walk in the ninth for his fourth save in as many chances to complete a four-hitter. Atlanta has allowed six hits

and two runs in the first two games of the series.

Announced attendance was 14,222, the smallest crowd at Marlins Park since it opened a year ago.

PHILLIES 8, METS 3

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Michael Young and Ryan Howard homered, Cliff Lee came within one out of a complete game and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the New York Mets.

John Mayberry Jr. also went deep for Philadelphia and Young had three hits, missing the cycle by a double.

Lee (2-0) allowed three runs — two earned — and eight hits, striking out six in 8 2-3 innings. The 2008 AL Cy Young Award winner didn't win his second game until July 31 last year.



Atlanta Braves' Kris Medlen pitching during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Miami Marlins in Miami, Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

Associated Press

The Phillies (3-5) roughed up Dillon Gee (0-2) for seven runs and 10 hits in three innings. It was his shortest career outing in 51 starts. John Buck hit his fourth homer in eight games for

the Mets, who fell to 5-3.

PADRES 9, DODGERS 3

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Will Venable homered and hit a bases-loaded triple for the San Diego Padres, who rebounded from a dread-

ful six-game trip to win their home opener against the rival Los Angeles Dodgers. Venable tied his career high with four RBIs. He homered in the first and his two-out triple highlighted a five-run eighth against three Dodgers relievers. The Padres sent 11 batters to the plate that inning, five of whom walked.

Nick Hundley also homered off Josh Beckett for the Padres, who were out-homered 10-1 and out-scored 40-14 in going 1-5 in a swing through New York and Colorado.

Luke Gregerson (1-0) got the last out of the seventh, the only batter he faced, for the win. Ronald Belisario (0-1) allowed a run and two hits in two-thirds of an inning for the loss in relief. □

Islanders improve playoff chances, dim Flyers' hopes

The Associated Press

UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — Michael Grabner scored the go-ahead goal late in the second period and Evgeni Nabokov made 26 saves as the New York Islanders took another step toward the playoffs with a 4-1 win over the Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday night.

NHL Capsules The Islanders won for the seventh time in nine games and moved two points ahead of the idle Rangers into seventh place in the Eastern Conference. Philadelphia (17-19-3) is 12th in the East, five points behind the Rangers and the postseason cutoff. The Islanders, who won just two of their first 11 home games this season, have four consecutive wins at Nassau Coliseum.

John Tavares and Casey Cizikas — into an empty net — scored 28 seconds apart in the final two minutes to put New York ahead 4-1.

Jakub Voracek gave the Flyers a 1-0 lead in the first period.

PENGUINS 5, HURRICANES 3 RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) — Beau Bennett and Evgeni Malkin scored 13 seconds apart in the third period, and Pittsburgh clinched the Atlantic Division title by beating free-falling Carolina.

Brenden Morrow scored his first goal with the Penguins, Robert Bortuzzo added a goal, and Pascal Dupuis had an empty-netter and two assists.

Marc-Andre Fleury made 25 saves for Penguins, who were without a handful of regulars — including captain Sidney Crosby, James Neal and Kris Letang — but still handed the Hurricanes their club-record eighth straight home loss.

Joe Corvo and Bobby Sanquetti scored early goals for the Hurricanes, and Riley Nash put them ahead 3-2 at 2:00 of the third.

Justin Peters made 28 saves for Carolina, which lost its sixth straight and for the 13th time in 14 games.

BLUE JACKETS 4, SHARKS 0 COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Sergei Bobrovsky earned his fourth NHL shutout — all in his last 15 games — and newcomer Marian Gaborik had a goal and an assist, leading Columbus over San Jose. Matt Calvert, James Wisniewski and Ryan Johansen also scored for the Blue Jackets, who had lost their previous two games.

Bobrovsky, who didn't have a shutout in his first 98 NHL appearances, made 30 saves, including stopping Patrick Marleau's point-blank wrist in the third period and Dan Boyle's hard, power-play slap shot in the second. The Blue Jackets have gotten points in 17 of their last 21 games (12-4-5). They had a four-game home winning streak ended Sunday night by Minnesota, 3-0. That defeat also snapped a club-record 12-game points streak at home (9-0-3).

CAPITALS 3, CANADIENS 2 MONTREAL (AP) — Alex Ovechkin scored his 26th goal and Jack Hillen netted his first as Washington stretched its winning run to five games by beating Montreal. Eric Fehr also scored for the Southeast Division-leading Capitals, who are 6-0-1 in their last seven. They are 5-0 in April, during which Ovechkin has eight goals, and Nicklas Backstrom, who had two assists, has 11 points — all assists. Lars Eller scored both goals for Montreal, which lost for the second time in seven games. It was Montreal's first loss to a Southeast team (11-1-0) in 2013. The Capitals improved to 6-0-1 in their last seven visits to Montreal.

LIGHTNING 3, SENATORS 2 TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Steven Stamkos scored his 26th goal of the season in the third period, and Tampa Bay beat Ottawa. Stamkos snapped a 2-2 tie with a power-play goal off a pass through the slot by Vincent Lecavalier with 5:04 to play. Tampa Bay also got goals

from Pierre-Cedric Labrie and Lecavalier. Martin St. Louis assisted on Lecavalier's goal for his 900th point. The right wing, the 98th NHL player to reach the milestone, also assisted on Stamkos' goal.

Daniel Alfredsson and Guillaume Latendresse scored for the Senators, who have lost five in a row. Kyle Turris had two assists. Latendresse tied it at 2 from near the crease on a power play 21 seconds into the third. Alfredsson has 425 goals, tying him for 70th place on the NHL career list with Brian Propp. The right wing also tied Frank Mahovlich for 56th place with 1,103 points.

JETS 4, SABRES 1 WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP) — Aaron Gagnon scored his first NHL goal to help Winnipeg top Buffalo. Gagnon was playing in just his third game since he was called up from the AHL. Kyle Wellwood, Andrew Ladd and Blake Wheeler had Winnipeg's other goals.

Kevin Porter had the only goal for the Sabres in the third period, spoiling what could have been Ondrej Pavelec's first shutout of the season. Pavelec finished with 29 saves.

It was the second consecutive win for the Jets during a six-game homestand. Winnipeg trails Washington by two points in the Southeast Division.

BLUES 1, PREDATORS 0 NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Brian Elliott made 15 saves, and Alex Steen snapped a six-game goal drought to lead St. Louis over Nashville.

The Blues extended their winning streak to a season-high five games. The fading Predators have dropped four straight and seven of eight.

Elliott was relatively untested en route to his second consecutive shutout. He made four saves in the first, six in the second and five in the third. Elliott has 20 career shutouts. □



New York Islanders center Keith Aucoin (10) and Kyle Okposo (21) celebrate their 4-1 win over the Philadelphia Flyers in an NHL hockey game in Uniondale, N.Y., Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

Associated Press

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APRIL 11 - 17

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Charlie Sheen Ashley Tisdale

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Sat 3:20 / 5:25 / 7:30 / 9:35 / 11:40
Sun & Hol 3:20 / 5:25 / 7:30 / 9:35

PG-13

NEW THIS WEEK

TRANCE

Rosario Dawson James McAvoy

With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Thurs 4:35 / 6:55 / 9:15
Fri 4:35 / 6:55 / 9:15 / 11:35
Sat 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:55 / 9:15 / 11:35
Sun & Hol 2:15 / 4:35 / 6:55 / 9:15

R

NEW THIS WEEK

SNITCH

Dwayne Johnson Susan Sarandon

Mon - Thurs 4:25 / 6:55 / 9:25
Fri 4:25 / 6:55 / 9:25 / 11:55
Sat 2:00 / 4:25 / 6:55 / 9:25 / 11:55
Sun & Hol 2:00 / 4:25 / 6:55 / 9:25

PG-13

NEW THIS WEEK

EVIL DEAD

Jane Levy Jessica Lucas

With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Thurs 5:05 / 7:15
Fri 5:05 / 7:15
Sat 2:55 / 5:05 / 7:15
Sun & Hol 2:55 / 5:05 / 7:15

R

Sam Neill Jeff Goldblum

JURASSIC PARK 3D

With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Thurs 4:10
Fri 4:10
Sat 1:50 / 4:10
Sun & Hol 1:50 / 4:10

PG-13

Alden Ehrenreich Alice Englert

BEAUTIFUL CREATURES

Mon - Thurs 6:45 / 9:20
Fri 6:45 / 9:20 / 11:55
Sat 6:45 / 9:20 / 11:55
Sun & Hol 6:45 / 9:20

PG-13

Dwayne Johnson Bruce Willis

GI JOE RETALIATION

3D Version With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Thurs 4:40 / 7:05 / 9:30
Fri 4:40 / 7:05 / 9:30 / 11:55
Sat 2:15 / 4:40 / 7:05 / 9:30 / 11:55
Sun & Hol 2:15 / 4:40 / 7:05 / 9:30

PG-13

Morgan Freeman Gerard Butler

OLYMPUS HAS FALLEN

With Dutch Subtitles

Mon - Thurs 4:05 / 6:40 / 9:15
Fri 4:05 / 6:40 / 9:15 / 11:50
Sat 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:40 / 9:15 / 11:50
Sun & Hol 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:40 / 9:15

R

Jurnee Smollett-Bell Lance Gross

TYLER PERRY'S
TEMPTATION
CONFESSIONS OF A MARRIAGE COUNSELOR

Mon - Thurs 9:25
Fri 9:25 / 11:50
Sat 9:25 / 11:50
Sun & Hol 9:25

PG-13

Nicolas Cage Emma Stone

THE CROODS

3D Version
With Spanish Subtitles

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OBLIVION

PG-13

Boxers work to knock out Parkinson's symptoms

PAMELA ENGEL

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) —

When Mary Yeaman was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2006, she could barely bring herself to leave her house. Her muscles were weak, and she was having a hard time coping.

"I've always done sports and stuff like that, and it was getting to be too much just sitting and doing nothing," she said.

In 2007, she found Rock Steady Boxing in Indianapolis. She now attends classes every week and has seen her symptoms ease as a result of a rigorous regimen of punching, jumping, jogging and stretching.

"It makes my muscles stronger. I can walk better," said Yeaman, 64.

Rock Steady, founded in 2006 by former Marion County prosecutor Scott C. Newman after he was diagnosed with Parkinson's at age 40, gives people suffering from the disease an outlet to ease their symptoms and im-



In this photo taken March 19, 2013, Dr. S. Elizabeth Zauber M.D. an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Indiana University School of Medicine, and a movement disorders specialist, poses ringside at Rock Steady Boxing in Indianapolis, where she serves on the board.

Associated Press

prove their physical fitness. Through boxing-inspired fitness classes, participants use exercise to slow the symptoms of a progressive neurological disease that causes tremors, muscle rigidity, loss of balance and cognitive, speech and vision impairment.

"Sometimes people get very discouraged when they are diagnosed with Parkinson's, understandably facing a disease that is progressive, that's going to worsen over time and that can take a big toll on them," said neurologist and Rock Steady board member Dr. S. Elizabeth Zauber.

"When they come to a gym and realize that ... there are people that are experiencing the same thing (and) there is something they can do about it to get better and perhaps slow down the course of their disease, then that improves their overall outlook. They realize they're still very capable physically even though they have a neurological disease."

Rock Steady offers 16 classes a week. The organization's 125 clients range in age from late 30s to early 90s.

Classes start slow with a warm-up before participants dive into more rigorous exercise. Coaches set up several stations throughout the small gym with a different exercise at each one. Participants punch hanging boxing bags and speed balls, jump rope and toss medicine balls.

The exercises at Rock Steady are based on boxing drills, and they're meant to extend the perceived capabilities of those suffering from Parkinson's. There are four different class levels, based on the severity of the symptoms.

Boxing works well to combat the disease because of the range of motion required in the exercises, Zauber said.

"I see all the time in my patients that start exercising or my patients that are exercising that they tend to function better," she said.

□

IVF pioneer Robert Edwards dead at age 87

MARIA CHENG

AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) —

Robert Edwards, a Nobel laureate from Britain whose pioneering in vitro fertilization research led to the first test tube baby and has since brought millions of people into the world, died Wednesday at age 87.

The University of Cambridge, where he was a professor, said Edwards passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home just outside Cambridge.

Together with Dr. Patrick Steptoe, Edwards developed in vitro fertilization, or IVF, which resulted in the birth in 1978 of the world's first test tube baby, Louise Brown. At the time, the two were accused of playing God and interfering with nature. Since then, the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology estimates that about 5 million babies have been



British Professor Robert Edwards, in this file photo dated Thursday, May. 19, 2005, whose pioneering work led to the birth of the world's first 'test tube baby', seen in London, England.

Associated Press

born using the technique, which creates embryos in the laboratory before transferring them into a woman. Edwards' "success in IVF was one of the 20th century's great medical feats, pursued at long odds and despite great opprobrium," International Federation of Fertility Societies President Joe Leigh Simpson said.

"He laid the groundwork for infertile couples worldwide to have children, with 1-4 per cent of all babies in Europe, North America and Australia now born by assisted reproductive technologies started by Professor Edwards. He will be greatly missed."

Experts say about 350,000 babies are born by IVF every year, mostly to people with infertility problems, single people and gay and lesbian couples.

"(Edwards) was an extraordinary scientist," said

Dr. Peter Braude, emeritus professor of obstetrics and gynecology at King's College London, who was at Cambridge when Edwards and Steptoe were developing IVF. "There was such hysteria around the kind of work he was doing," Braude said, noting that Edwards stopped his research for two years after he published details on how he had created embryos in the laboratory. "He wanted to work out what the right thing to do was, whether he should continue or whether he was out on a limb." Braude said Edwards collected donor eggs from women in Oldham, where Steptoe worked. Edwards then put the eggs into test tubes which he strapped to his legs to keep them warm before catching the train to Cambridge, where he would attempt to fertilize them in the laboratory.

After Brown was born, Braude recalled a celebration at Cambridge, where scientists toasted Edwards and Steptoe's achievement by drinking champagne out of plastic cups. Braude said public opinion has evolved considerably since then. "I think people now understand that (Edwards) only had the best motivation," he said. "There are few biologists that have done something so practical and made a huge difference for the entire world." In 2010, Edwards was awarded the Nobel prize in medicine or physiology for the development of IVF. Steptoe had already passed away; the Nobel prizes are not awarded posthumously. The Roman Catholic Church denounced the award, arguing that human life should only begin through intercourse and not artificially. □

Research firm: PC sales plunge as Windows 8 flops

**MICHAEL LIEDTKE
PETER SVENSSON**
AP Technology Writers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Two somber new reports show unprecedented declines in desktop and laptop sales during the first three months of the year — signs that the personal computer market may never fully recover from a new generation of mobile devices. And it appears that a makeover of Microsoft's Windows operating system seems to have done more harm than good since the software was released in October.

"This is horrific news for PCs," said BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis. "It's all about mobile computing now." First-quarter shipments of PCs fell 14 percent from the same time last year, according to International Data Corp. That's the deepest quarterly drop since the firm started tracking the industry in 1994. Another research firm, Gartner Inc., pegged the first-quarter decline at 11 percent.

The deviation stemmed from the firms' slightly different definitions of PCs. This is the worst shape the PC market has been in since IBM Corp. released a desktop machine in 1981. In an attempt to keep the PC relevant, Microsoft released a radical new version of Windows last fall. Windows 8 has a new look that's similar to the design

of the software running the most popular smartphones and tablet computers. The overhaul requires a relearning process, a leap that many consumers and corporate buyers aren't ready to take.

All signs so far point to Windows 8 being a flop.

"Unfortunately, it seems clear that the Windows 8 launch not only didn't provide a positive boost to the PC market, but appears to have slowed the market," IDC Vice President Bob O'Donnell said.

The newest version of Windows is designed to work well with touch-sensitive screens, but the displays add to the cost of a PC. Together, the changes and higher prices "have made PCs a less attractive alternative to dedicated tablets and other competitive devices," O'Donnell said. Representatives of Microsoft Corp. were not immediately available for comment.

IDC's count excludes tablets, even if they run PC-style software. It also excludes any device that has a detachable keyboard. With the release of Windows 8, PC makers have been reviving their experiments with tablet-laptop hybrids, some of which have detachable keyboards. Consumers are likely to have shifted some of their buying away from traditional laptops and toward these new devices, which means that the total



In this Friday, Oct. 26, 2012, file photo, a woman walks past laptop computers running Microsoft Windows 8 operating system during its launching ceremony in Hong Kong. Associated Press

sales decline of Windows-based devices may not be quite as drastic as IDC's numbers suggest.

Microsoft shares fell 63 cents, or 2 percent, to \$29.65 in extended trading, after the release of the report. It had gained 67 cents in regular trading. Hewlett-Packard Co., the world's largest maker of PCs, saw a 24 percent drop in shipments in the first quarter compared with the same period a year ago. The industry's No. 2, China's Lenovo Group, is benefiting from sales to first-time buyers in China and other developing countries. As a result, it held sales steady, alone among the world's top 5 PC makers, according to IDC's figures.

HP shares fell 60 cents, or 2.7 percent, to \$21.72 in ex-

tended trading. They had risen 10 cents in regular trading.

Shares of Intel Corp., which makes four out of five PC processors, fell 27 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$21.99, after rising 51 cents in regular trading.

Gartner noted one bright spot: Businesses are buying more PCs, and account for about half of the market. In total, IDC put the global PC shipments at 76.3 million

in the quarter, while Gartner put the figure at 79.2 million. The shipments are still higher than they were four years ago, during the recession.

Both firms track shipments of PCs from the manufacturer rather than retail sales. Shipments correlate closely with sales. The figures include shipments of Apple's Macs, which account for about 5 percent of the worldwide market. □

Venture capital firms team up to invest in Google Glass ideas

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Three influential venture capital firms are teaming to find and finance entrepreneurs who want to create applications and other accessories for Google Glass.

That's an Internet-connected device that is setting out to turn wearable computing into the latest fashion trend.

The partnership announced Wednesday will join Google's own venture capital arm with two other

investment firms, Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers and Andreessen Horowitz. The firms are pledging to work together to arrange seed funding ranging from \$250,000 to \$2 million to support ideas for software and other gear built for Google Glass.

The formation of the "Glass Collective" is likely to heighten the anticipation surrounding Google Glass. The device isn't expected to be released on the mass market until next year. □



This June 27, 2012 file photo shows Google co-founder Sergey Brin demonstrating Google's new Glass, wearable internet glasses, at the Google I/O conference in San Francisco.

Associated Press

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KFC parent Yum says China sales hit by bird flu

CANDICE CHOI

AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Yum Brands says publicity surrounding a new strain of bird flu is hurting its KFC sales in China, putting more pressure on its efforts to recover from an earlier controversy over its chicken suppliers. The U.S.-based company said in a regulatory filing Wednesday that the new bird flu cases have had a "significant, negative impact" on KFC in the past week.

The company already has been working to rebuild trust with customers following a TV report that its suppliers were giving chickens unapproved levels of antibiotics. That report sent sales plummeting for Yum, the biggest Western fast-food operator in China with about 5,300 locations. For March, Yum said sales at restaurants in China open at least a year fell 13 percent, including a 16 percent drop at KFC and a 4 percent gain at Pizza Hut. The decline follows a 20



In this Saturday, April 6, 2013 photo, a worker takes excrement samples from a chicken at a closed poultry market in Nanjing in east China's Jiangsu province.

Associated Press

percent drop for January and February.

The impact from the bird flu cases would be reflected in April's sales results, which will be reported May 10.

"Historically in these situations, we have educated consumers that properly cooked chicken is perfectly safe to eat, and we will continue to do so," Yum said of the bird flu scare in the filing with the Securities

and Exchange Commission.

China announced the first known cases of a new strain of bird flu on March 31. The reports have sparked concerns among experts that the virus could mutate in a way that allows it to spread easily among people. Although there has been no sign of human-to-human transmission so far, the virus has infected 33 people

and killed nine.

Yum has been reporting monthly sales figures for China to keep investors updated on its recovery efforts in relation to the supplier scandal. As part of its push to regain trust with customers, it had announced the elimination of more than 1,000 small producers from its chicken supplier network and strengthened oversight over farmers.

CEO David Novak has noted that Yum has overcome major ordeals in the past, such as a bird flu scare in 2005 that dragged down sales by as much as 40 percent. The company

hasn't adjusted its aggressive plans for expansion in China.

Nevertheless, Yum has warned that it expects its profit to fall in 2013 as a result of the chicken supplier scandal. That would snap an 11-year streak of double-digit growth.

Yum has more than 39,000 locations worldwide, and China has been a critical engine of growth with its rapidly growing ranks of middle-class consumers.

Shares of Yum Brands Inc., which also owns Taco Bell, were down almost 2 percent at \$65.50 in after-hours trading. □

Nevada gambling revenue up 15 percent in February

By Sandra Chereb

Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP)

-- Casinos on the Las Vegas Strip had their most profitable month in history in February, and gambling revenue was up 15 percent statewide thanks to the Chinese New Year and heavy baccarat play, state regulators reported Wednesday.

Casinos statewide won nearly \$1.1 billion in February, up \$141 million from February 2012 and representing the largest statewide win since December 2007, said Mike Lawton, senior analyst with the Gaming Control Board. Clark County casino revenue of \$956 million was up nearly 18 percent.

Resorts on the Las Vegas Strip, Nevada's tourism and gambling mecca, had a record month with winnings of \$696.1 million. That's an increase of 31 percent, or \$165.4 million, from a year ago.

"It's the highest win amount ever recorded for the Las Vegas Strip," Lawton said. Baccarat is a high-roller game favored by Asian players, and the Chinese New Year falling in February this year was largely responsible for the big gains. Baccarat winnings amounted to a record

\$263.9 million, an increase of 131.4 percent, or \$150 million, Lawton said. Without baccarat, the overall statewide win would have been down 1.1 percent from the previous year.

The "win" is what was left in casino coffers after bettors wagered \$12 billion. A breakdown shows \$3.4 billion was wagered on card and table games like baccarat, and another \$8.6 billion was pumped into slot and video poker machines. February also marked a big month for sports books because the Super Bowl occurred during the month and featured heavy action between the Baltimore Ravens and San Francisco 49ers. Sports books won \$14.2 million, up 24 percent from the previous year. On football wagers, the win amount was \$2.2 million, up 38 percent.

Elsewhere around the state, casinos in downtown Las Vegas saw their numbers drop almost 8 percent in February. Washoe County gambling revenue of almost \$60 million was down a little more than 1 percent, while South Lake Tahoe numbers were up almost 8 percent.

For the fiscal year that began July 1, statewide winnings are up 2.3 percent. □

Government sold \$621M worth of GM stock in March

TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The government has sold another piece of its stake in General Motors Co.

The Treasury Department said in its March report to Congress that it sold \$621 million worth of GM common stock last month.

The report dated Wednesday says the government has recovered about \$30.4 billion of the \$49.5 billion bailout it gave the Detroit automaker. That means taxpayers are still \$19.1 billion in the hole.

The Treasury says the price per share will be revealed at a later date.

GM stock sold in a range of \$26.75 to \$29.30 in March. At the midpoint of \$28, the government would have sold roughly 22.2 million shares.

That would leave it with



CEO of General Motors (GM) Dan Akerson speaks during a press conference at Opel headquarters in Russelsheim, Germany, Wednesday April 10, 2013.

Associated Press.

about 255 million shares. Those would have to sell for around \$75 each for the government to break even, more than double the current trading price. GM shares closed up 84 cents, or 3 percent, at \$28.37 amid a broad market rally on Wednesday.

In January, the Treasury announced a plan to sell the shares by early 2014 and said that it hired JPMorgan Securities and Citigroup Global Markets to conduct the sale. The banks will get one cent for every share they sell, for a fee of up to \$3 million. □

Bitcoin economics: A primer on a volatile currency

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bitcoin, the virtual currency composed of digital bits, is based on cutting-edge mathematical schemes that guard against counterfeiting. But it's also based on an old idea, now dismissed by mainstream economists, about how a currency should operate — an idea that could be setting bitcoins up for an abrupt plunge.

Bitcoin was started in 2009 as a currency free from government controls, an entirely digital means of exchange for a digital age. It's a rapidly growing phenomenon that has taken root as a payment method on some websites for both legal and illegal goods.

Each "coin" has been worth less than \$10 for most of the currency's history, but this week the value surged past \$200 — with the recent bail-out crisis in Cyprus seen by many as one of the triggers of the surge. Wednesday saw a "flash crash," as the value dipped close to \$100 before recovering.

The meteoric rise in value is also linked to what some economists say is the biggest problem with the currency: The supply of bit-



This April 3, 2013 photo shows bitcoin tokens at 35-year-old software engineer Mike Caldwell's shop in Sandy, Utah. Caldwell mints physical versions of bitcoins, cranking out homemade tokens with codes protected by tamper-proof holographic seals, a retro-futuristic kind of prepaid cash.

Associated Press.

coins increases only slowly, at a rate that's coded into the system.

That's a contrast to a regular paper currency like the dollar, whose supply is managed by a central bank like the U.S. Federal Reserve. The Fed engineers the dollar supply to increase slightly faster than the growth of the economy, which means that the value of the dollar falls slightly every year, in the phenomenon known as inflation.

New bitcoins are "mined" or generated by computers. They get harder to generate all the time, which means the inflow of fresh bitcoins keeps falling. There are about 8 million bitcoins in circulation today, and the maximum that can be generated is 21 million. By 2032, 99 percent of those will have been created.

Since the supply of bitcoins grows so slowly, any increase in demand leads to higher prices. That's widely

seen as a disaster when it happens to a real-world currency. As money becomes more valuable, our incentive is to hold onto the money instead of spending it — slowing down the economy.

"What we want from a monetary system isn't to make people holding money rich; we want it to facilitate transactions and make the economy as a whole rich. And that's not at all what is happening in

Bitcoin," Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman wrote in 2011.

When the supply of money is fixed or increasing only slowly, deflation can feed on itself. Investors will look at the rising price of the coins and conclude that they're set to rise further. So they buy more, sending the price even higher. This goes on until the market is sated. In the ideal outcome, the value of the currency then stabilizes at the new high level. In the worst case, the value plunges.

This boom-bust cycle has already happened once before for Bitcoin. It hit nearly \$31 in June 2011 then crashed, hitting \$2 five months later.

In essence, Bitcoin is similar to the "gold standard," the monetary system in force before modern central banking started to take root in the 1930s. Under the gold standard, each unit of currency was worth a certain amount of gold, leaving governments few means to increase the amount of currency in circulation.

No country uses the gold standard today, but some libertarians want to revive it, and see Bitcoin as a modern-day alternative or complement. □

Stocks rise sharply, led by gains in technology

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Technology stocks roared back Wednesday, driving the Standard & Poor's 500 and Dow Jones industrial average to record highs.

The industry has lagged the broader market this year, but surged after network communication company Adtran reported earnings that were double what Wall Street analysts expected. That boosted optimism that businesses will increase spending on technology equipment.

Chipmakers Micron and Intel jumped, as did other network equipment mak-

ers like Cisco and JDS Uniphase. Stocks were also up on an optimistic reading of the Federal Reserve Bank's latest minutes.

Technology stocks rose 1.8 percent, the most of the 10 industry groups in the S&P. That's a big change from tech's weak performance this year. The group is up just 4.7 percent, trailing the S&P's gain of 11.3 percent. "Tech has performed so poorly, it's oversold and warrants some interest here," said Scott Wren, a senior equity strategist at Wells Fargo Advisors. "If the economy continues to improve there is going to be some capital spending."

The stock market is reversing course from last week, when investors' confidence fell because of an unexpectedly poor report on the U.S. job market and other signs that the economy slowed in March.

The Dow Jones industrial average jumped 128.78 points, or 0.9 percent, to 14,802.24. It was the third straight gain for the blue-chip index and its biggest one-day rise in a month. The Dow surged in the first three months of the year and is still up 13 percent in 2013.

The Nasdaq composite, which is heavily weighted with technology stocks,



A trader adjusts his glasses as he works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday, April 10, 2013. Stocks are opening higher on Wall Street, a day after the Dow Jones industrial average closed at its second all-time high in a week.

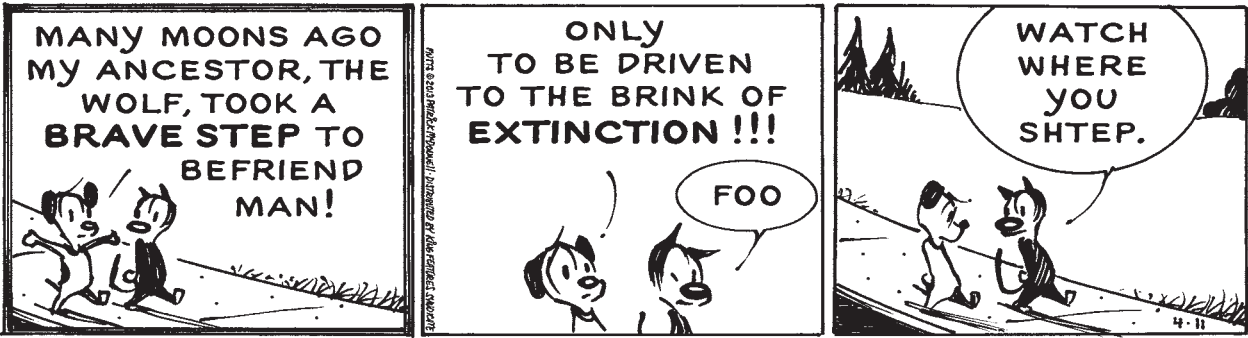
Associated Press

had the biggest percentage gain of the three main indexes Wednesday, rising 59.39 points, or 1.8 percent, to 3,297.25. The S&P rose 19.12 points, or 1.2 percent,

to 1,587.73.

Investors are seeing positive news in the minutes from the Federal Reserve's latest meeting, which were released Wednesday. □

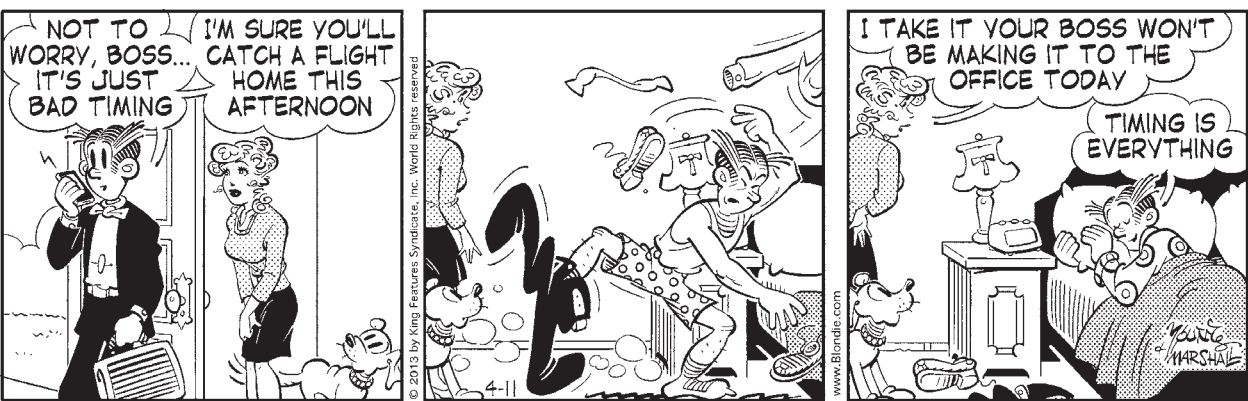
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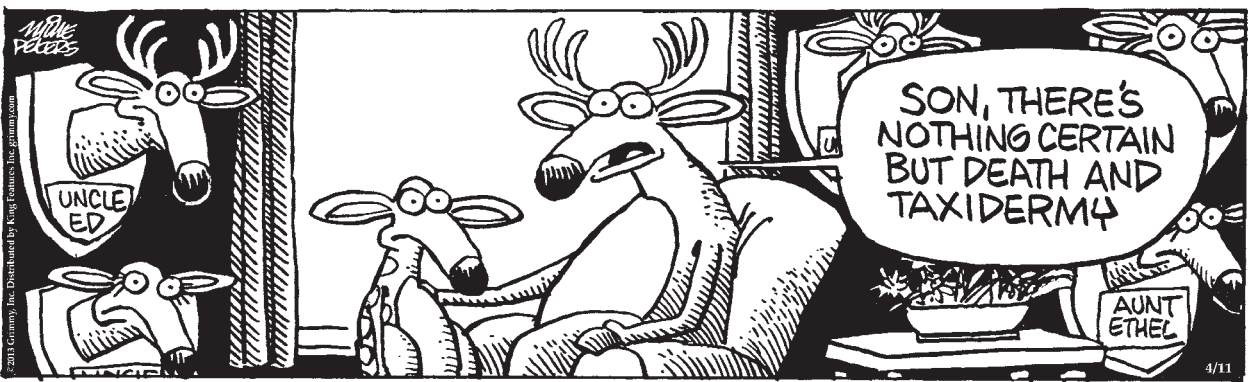
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	9		7		2		
2		3		8			
	6		4				7
8		6					
	1					7	
					9		1
3				2		1	
			1		4		5
		7		3		6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/11

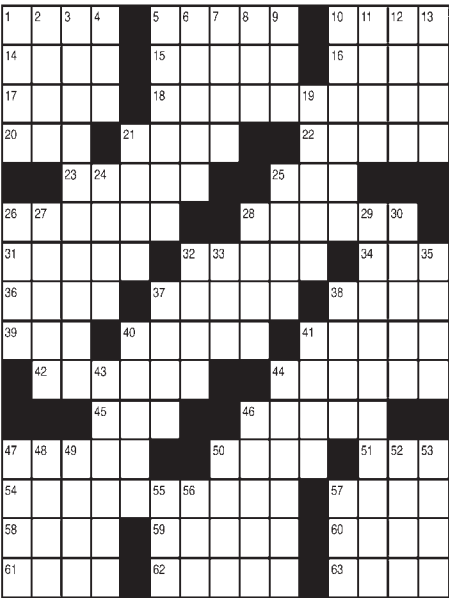
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	8	5	6	9	7	1	2	4
2	4	6	1	3	8	5	9	7
7	9	1	2	4	5	6	3	8
6	1	2	4	8	9	7	5	3
4	7	3	5	1	2	9	8	6
8	5	9	7	6	3	2	4	1
5	2	4	3	7	1	8	6	9
9	3	7	8	5	6	4	1	2
1	6	8	9	2	4	3	7	5

ACROSS

- 1 Musician's jobs
- 5 Procrastinator's word
- 10 Slightly open
- 14 Actor Wyle
- 15 Rome's nation
- 16 Bundle of hay
- 17 Distorted; off
- 18 Countess or duchess
- 20 Children's running game
- 21 Mattel boy dolls
- 22 _ arrived; isn't here yet
- 23 Blazing
- 25 Go public with
- 26 Actor James
- 28 Coated with a layer of gold
- 31 Stringed instruments
- 32 Piece of grass
- 34 Four qts.
- 36 In addition to
- 37 Hauls
- 38 _ Scotia
- 39 Caribbean _
- 40 Daytime serials
- 41 Allowed by law
- 42 "Make it _!"; "Hurry up!"
- 44 Withdraw; move back
- 45 Dessert choice
- 46 Tablecloths and bedsheets
- 47 Snoozed
- 50 Come across
- 51 Toddler's age
- 54 Stamp _; philatelist's hobby
- 57 Pitt or Garrett
- 58 Qualified
- 59 Pig out
- 60 Watermelon coating
- 61 Foot digits
- 62 Madrid mister
- 63 Performs



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 4/11/13

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

HEADS	SKIP	STAN
ULTRA	PERU	KALE
GLOOM	REAR	ISLE
ESPOUSAL	RENTED	
	PRAY	REDDENS
BANYAN	DODGE	
ADO	IDEAL	YELLS
GAVE	YEMEN	POOL
SMASH	ROSES	OBI
	CABIN	PUPPET
ASTAIRE	FARE	
CHARGE	ALL	FOURS
RANG	ABLE	ERROR
ERGO	TOMS	RIATA
SPOT	HASH	SALES

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- 5 Cruise ships
- 6 Make amends
- 7 Keep _ on; watch closely
- 8 Building wing, often
- 9 Deli loaf
- 10 On the train
- 11 Fruit spreads
- 12 Pres. Chester _ Arthur
- 13 Payment to a landlord
- 19 Once in a _; occasionally
- 21 Smooch
- 24 Charges
- 25 Assists
- 26 Mountain range in Europe
- 27 Reigns
- 28 Chokes
- 29 Pompous
- 30 Mr. Letterman
- 32 Hee-haw
- 33 Drink like a dog
- 35 Not on time
- 37 Dingbat
- 38 Friendly

DOWN

- 1 Small fly
- 2 Dubuque, _
- 3 Enormous
- 4 Bashful

- 40 In _ of; notwithstanding
- 41 Give to a borrower
- 43 Red Delicious and McIntosh
- 44 Dead _; look-alike
- 46 Shoptalk
- 47 Word to a pest
- 48 Gray wolf
- 49 Magazine title
- 50 Helsinki native
- 52 Desire
- 53 Chances
- 55 Major network
- 56 Even score
- 57 Undergarment

Maine hermit living in wild for 27 years arrested

By GLENN ADAMS
Associated Press

ROME, Maine (AP) — A man who lived like a hermit for decades in a makeshift camp in the woods and may be responsible for more than 1,000 burglaries for food and other staples has been caught in a surveillance trap at a camp he treated as a "Walmart," authorities said Wednesday.

Christopher Knight, 47, was arrested last week when he tripped a surveillance sensor set up by a game warden while stealing food from a camp for people with special needs in Rome, a town of about 1,000 whose population swells with the arrival of summer residents.

Authorities on Tuesday found the campsite where they believed Knight, known as the North Pond Hermit in local lore, has lived for 27 years.

Some residents say they've been aware of the hermit for years, often in connection with break-ins that have occurred. He was so



well known to some summer cottage owners that they left food out for him so he wouldn't break in during the colder months, state Trooper Diane Vance said. But others were hardly aware of the hermit living within their midst without detection since 1986.

"I was born in 1987. He was there before I was," Rome resident Melissa Witham said outside her home.

Paul Anderson, a selectman in the town about 20 miles northwest of Augusta, acknowledged local talk about a man living alone in the woods.

"I've lived in the town for 32 years, and I've never, ever met the guy," Anderson said. □

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Feelin' queasy? More air turbulence over Atlantic

RAPHAEL SATTER
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Tourists, exchange students, masters of the financial universe and other business travelers: It's time to buckle up. More pollution is likely to mean bumpier flights for trans-Atlantic travelers, researchers say, predicting increased turbulence over the North Atlantic as carbon dioxide levels rise. University of East Anglia climate expert Manoj Joshi said scientists have long studied the impact of the carbon-heavy aviation industry on climate change but he took a new tack. "We looked at the effect of climate change on aviation," he said.

In a paper published Monday in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, Joshi and colleague Paul Williams ran a climate simulation that cranked up the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to twice its pre-industrial level — roughly 50 percent more than now. Williams said they ran a series of turbulence-predicting algorithms for the North Atlantic winter period and compared the results to pre-industrial rates. Queasy fliers need read no further. Williams said the results showed a 10-to-40 per-



A man watches as a British Airways plane lands at London's Heathrow Airport, in this Monday Jan. 10, 2011 photo.

cent increase in the median strength of turbulence and a 40-to-170 percent increase in the frequency of moderate-or-greater turbulence. He described the latter as shaking that is "strong enough to force the pilot to switch on the seat-belt sign, knock over drinks, and make it difficult to walk."

The explanation is that some models predict that global warming will draw the jet stream further north, creating more of the vertical wind shear that causes

turbulence.

Joshi said choppy skies might prompt pilots to re-route their flights. But the North Atlantic is a busy place for air travel, with an average of 960 flights a day last week, according to aviation data companies masFlight and OAG. Pilots interviewed by The Associated Press said — in such a crowded air corridor — planes were just as likely to simply power through. "You just got to grin and bear it," said Steven Draper, a retired airline pilot and

a spokesman for the British Airline Pilots Association. Although there's no clear evidence of rougher skies just yet, Draper did say he'd seen worse weather — like storms — near the end of his career. "My experience was that they were increasing in intensity and frequency," he said.

Academics who weren't involved in the research praised it. University of Birmingham climatologist Gregor Leckebush said there weren't any substantial holes that

he could see, although he did note that it relied on a single climate model.

Rob MacKenzie, a professor of atmospheric science at Birmingham, said additional models might have refined the researchers' results but their overall conclusion — "a really neat piece of work" — was not in doubt.

The aviation industry is the world's fastest-growing source of carbon dioxide emissions, a major factor in human-driven climate change. Solutions including plant-based jet fuels and carbon offsets have been considered, but politicians, aviation companies and international travelers have so far failed to significantly blunt the environmental impact of air travel.

Werner Krauss, a social anthropologist and the author of "The Climate Trap," said he doubted that the prospect of a more turbulent New York-to-London flight would jolt anyone into action.

"For decades now, environmentalists and climate scientists (have confronted) us on an almost daily basis with doom scenarios," said Krauss. "Do people still listen? I am not sure, and I am afraid bumpy air travel ... won't come as a shock." □

Stephen Hawking: Explore space for humanity's sake

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Stephen Hawking, the British physicist who spent his career decoding the universe and even experienced weightlessness, is urging the continuation of space exploration — for humanity's sake.

The 71-year-old Hawking

said he did not think humans would survive another 1,000 years "without escaping beyond our fragile planet." Hawking made the remarks Tuesday at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, where he toured a stem cell laboratory that's focused on trying to slow the progression of Lou Gehrig's disease.



In this photo provided by Cedars-Sinai, British cosmologist Stephen Hawking, who has motor neuron disease, gives a talk titled "A Brief History of Mine," to workers at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, on Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

Associated Press

Hawking was diagnosed with the neurological disorder 50 years ago while a student at Cambridge University. He recalled how he became depressed and initially didn't see a point in finishing his doctorate. But he continued his studies. "If you understand how the universe operates, you control it in a way," he said. Renowned for his work on black holes and the origins of the cosmos, Hawking is famous for bringing esoteric physics concepts to the masses through his best-selling books, including "A Brief History of Time," which sold more than 10 million copies worldwide. Hawking has survived longer than most people with

Lou Gehrig's disease, also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. ALS attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control the muscles. People gradually have more and more trouble breathing and moving as muscles weaken and waste away. Hawking receives around-the-clock care, can only communicate by twitching his cheek, and relies on a computer mounted to his wheelchair to convey his thoughts in a distinctive robotic monotone. Despite his diagnosis, Hawking has remained active. In 2007, he floated like an astronaut on an aircraft that creates weightlessness by making parabolic dives. □

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Auction includes Parker's Carrie Bradshaw shoes

NEW YORK (AP) — Sarah Jessica Parker is auctioning three pairs of shoes from her Carrie Bradshaw days to raise money for a New York high school.

Her "Sex and the City" shoes from Prada, Jonathan Kelsey and Dolce Vita will be sold alongside Elvis Presley's brown leather boots, Shaquille O'Neal basketball shoes — size 22 — and pink platforms that Britney Spears wore on tour.

The auction benefits LaGuardia High School of Music, Art and the Performing Arts, according to statement Wednesday from Gotta Have Rock and Roll, a memorabilia company.

It will also feature Madonna's leopard-print boots,



This Feb. 6, 2013 file photo shows actress Sarah Jessica Parker at amfAR's New York gala at Cipriani Wall Street in New York. Associated Press

Sylvester Stallone's fur ones and Eminem's white sneakers.

The sale starts on Apr. 24. □

NBC renews Carson Daly's show for 13th season

LOS ANGELES (AP) — NBC is keeping Carson Daly's show in its late-night lineup. The network announced Wednesday that it's renewing "Last Call with Carson Daly" for the show's 13th season.

NBC lauded Daly for creating what the network called "a unique late-night format." His program airs at 1:35 a.m. Eastern time

(0635 GMT). Daly says he's proud of "Last Call" and grateful to continue with it. He also hosts the NBC singing contest "The Voice."

NBC previously announced plans to shake up the "Tonight Show," replacing Jay Leno with Jimmy Fallon next year. The network hasn't said who will take Fallon's place as host of "Late Night." □



In this March 20, 2013 file photo, Carson Daly arrives at the 4th season premiere screening of "The Voice" at the TCL Theatre, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

Ben Affleck reflects on Oscar speech



In this Feb. 24, 2013 file photo, Ben Affleck poses with his award for best picture for "Argo" during at the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

NATALIE ROTMAN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ben Affleck took home the best picture Oscar at this year's Academy Awards for his Iran hostage drama "Argo." But what everyone really remembers is that emotional, slightly uncomfortable acceptance speech. Everyone, apparently, except Affleck. "I barely remember the Oscar speech," the actor-director said when asked about it at Tuesday's premiere of his latest film. "Certainly, the most important thing for me, in a way, was to honor my wife and to let people know how much I love her."

During his speech Affleck choked up while thanking his wife, Jennifer Garner, for working on their "marriage for 10 Christmases."

"I think you can tell what people care about really by their actions — by what they invest in, by what they work on," he explained. "It's hard to tell somebody that you care about them when you're never around them and you don't see them and talk to them. So that was what I was trying to get across. Although I don't know how articulate I was."

Affleck was joined by co-stars Olga Kurylenko and Rachel McAdams for the Los Angeles premiere of Terrence Malick's romantic rumination "To the Won-

der," which opens Friday. Affleck, 40, admitted that seeing the celebrated director in action was indeed a wonder to behold. "I think that you know he's

a director who does really unusual stuff, really interesting stuff, and somebody who works outside the typical Hollywood norm. And that's interesting to other directors, certainly to me, because you go like 'wow, what would happen of you experiment with this?'"

The film stars Affleck as an American whose relationship with a woman he met overseas turns cold, leaving him drifting back toward a childhood love.

"To the Wonder" was the last review written by celebrated film critic Roger Ebert, who died Tuesday, and it sent "shivers" down Affleck's spine.

"I thought it was a profound honor," he said. "To have this be the last movie that he reviewed and to have it viewed through this sort of transcendental lens of a man at the end of his life is as important as anything that's ever happened around movies in my career." □

Brooklyn-based poet wins Whitman prize

NEW YORK (AP) — A Brooklyn, New York-based poet has won a prize named for one of the New York City borough's most famous former residents, Walt Whitman. The Academy of American Poets announced Wednesday that Chris Hosea has won the Walt Whitman Award for

a debut collection. Hosea will receive \$5,000 and his book, "Put Your Hands In," will be published by Louisiana State University Press. The winner was chosen by one of the greatest contemporary poets, John Ashbery. The Whitman award was established in 1975. □



This 2011 photo released by the Academy of American Poets shows poet Chris Hosea. Associated Press



This undated image originally released by MTV shows the cast of the new reality series "Buckwild," from left, Shain Gandee, Anna, Katie, Salwa, Joey, background center, Ashley, Tyler, background right, Cara and Shae. Associated Press

MTV cancels 'BUCKWILD' after star's accidental death

VICKI SMITH
Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, West Virginia (AP) — MTV said Wednesday it is canceling its West Virginia-based reality TV show "BUCKWILD" a week after the accidental death of 21-year-old star Shain Gandee. Network spokesman Jake Urbanski confirmed the news, saying it was "not an easy decision." "But given Shain's tragic passing and essential presence on the show, we felt it was not appropriate to continue without him," the network said. "Instead, we are working on a meaningful way to pay tribute to his memory on our air and privately." On Sunday, MTV will air a special, "BUCKWILD: WV to the NYC," which was shot before second-season filming had begun. The network said Shain's parents, Dale and Loretta Gandee, support the move. Gandee and two others were found dead of carbon monoxide poisoning on April 1. Gandee's SUV was stuck in a mud pit near his home in Sissonville, its tail pipe submerged. That could have allowed the invisible gas to fill the vehicle's cabin. Gandee, his 48-year-old uncle, David Gandee, and 27-year-old friend Donald Robert Myers had last been

seen leaving a bar at 3 a.m. March 31. Friends and family searched all day for them, and authorities issued a missing-persons report the following day. The Gandees were buried Sunday after a joint memorial service in Charleston that drew hundreds of friends, family and fans. Cameras were not allowed inside the Charleston Municipal Auditorium or at the private family burial in Thaxton Cemetery. Shain Gandee, nicknamed "Gandee Candy" by fans, was a breakout star of the show that followed the antics of young friends enjoying their wild country lifestyle. Season one was filmed last year, mostly around Sissonville and Charleston. Gandee favored four-wheelers, pickups and SUVs over cellphones and computers, and "mudding," or off-road driving, was one of his favorite pastimes. It was no coincidence some mourners arrived in mud-splattered trucks. Shooting was underway on season two at the time of Gandee's death, but MTV said film crews were not with him over Easter weekend and hadn't filmed him since earlier that week. MTV said the half-hour series in the old "Jersey Shore" time slot was pulling

in an average of 3 million viewers per episode since its premiere and was the No. 1 original cable series on Thursday nights among 12- to 34-year-olds. Some fans reacted angrily to the decision on social media, launching a campaign to keep the show alive using the hash tag (hash)KeepBuckwildForShain on Twitter. Cast member Cara Parrish was also among those objecting. "I think MTV should show reality. Losing Shain broke all our hearts," Parrish tweeted. Although the idea of filming without Gandee "hurts me clear through my soul," she wrote, "the thought of turning our backs on his dreams is worse." But many others, including some at Gandee's funeral, said the show just wouldn't have been the same without him. The network issued a statement from Loretta and Dale Gandee, thanking fans for their thoughts and prayers. "We have truly felt all the love and know that Shain is resting peacefully," they said. "Shain was an incredible, outgoing and positive person who was loved by whoever he met. We are honored that we were able to let the world see what a wonderful son we had." □

Review: Rita Moreno's memoir is survivor's story



This book cover image released by Celebra shows a self-titled memoir by actress Rita Moreno. Associated Press

DOUGLASS K. DANIEL
Associated Press

The award-winning actress Rita Moreno opens up — way, way up — in a memoir driven less by recollections from her career than by her effort to overcome crippling self-doubts. Fans eager to learn what it was like to dance for Gene Kelly (in "Singin' in the Rain"), share a soundstage with Yul Brynner (in "The King and I") and perform the choreography of Jerome Robbins (in "West Side Story") aren't likely to be satisfied with Moreno's brisk treatment of her work. Yet, Moreno wasn't shaped by the roles she played. She focuses her story on a journey of self-discovery, and it's that introspection that gives her memoir its punch. Her success story is so American. Her mother brought 5-year-old Rosita Dolores Alverio to the United States from Puerto Rico to seek a better life — as much or more for herself as for her daughter. She left her husband (the first of five) and her young son in Juncos, a village little Rosita saw as a sensual place of beauty and wonder amid the El Yunque rain forest. New York City was a forest of a different sort, cold and indifferent with overt racism. Rosita didn't speak English when she arrived, further marking her as an outsider, but she learned the language — and how

to dance. Guided by Paco Cansino, Rita Hayworth's teacher and uncle, Rosita began performing at 9 and dropped out of school as her career blossomed. The stage name Rosita Moreno was one of two legacies from a stepfather she despised. The other was a house in the Long Island suburbs, far from the ethnic ghettos of the city, which gave her a softer view of American life. MGM studio chief Louis B. Mayer declared Moreno to be "a Spanish Elizabeth Taylor" and hired her. The first movie star she met in Hollywood was Clark Gable, who told her: "Rosita. Great name, kid." A casting agent disagreed, deciding that it was too Italian and changing it to Rita. The sweet and sour flavors of ethnicity were never far away. Moreno was a talented beauty but pigeonholed in films as a "spitfire" or some other kind of exotic nonwhite. Even after she won an Oscar as a supporting actress in "West Side Story," released in 1961, many doors remained closed. As she neared and then passed 40, she fought to continue her career in spite of the burdens of age and ethnicity. No wonder Moreno, now 81, thought from the beginning that it would all come crashing down eventually. Outward confidence aside, she was bedeviled by doubts and fears and secretly believed that she was faking it all. Her relationships with domineering men, particularly Marlon Brando, reflected her low self-esteem. She broke up with Brando a half-dozen times, returning to the notorious narcissist again and again. Driven to despair by an abortion and a suicide attempt — both stemmed from her affair with Brando — she managed to summon the strength to begin years of psychic healing. That may well be Rita Moreno's greatest accomplishment. □

The military prep school scam



Joe Nocera
© 2013 New York Times News Service

Is there any institution of higher learning that isn't gaming the system to gain athletic advantage? I've come to believe the answer is no.

Harvard? Last year, before announcing that the university had uncovered widespread cheating, a Harvard administrator sent an email to the university's resident deans, saying that potentially culpable athletes might withdraw from school temporarily. That way, the cheating scandal wouldn't cost them eligibility. On the other side of the country, the University of California, Davis, had long kept athletics in perspective — until 2007, when it inexplicably joined the big boys in Division I. Vowing not to cut any "minor" sports, it did just that as athletic expenses soared. Promising not to lower standards, it abandoned that vow, too.

After the UC Davis faculty athletic representative refused to support the application of "a talented basketball player with a questionable academic background," she was removed from that position, according to a report by the Investigative Reporting Program at the University of California, Berkeley. The basketball player was admitted.

Which brings us to today's subject: the military academies. Incredibly, even the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy and West Point, charged with training the next generation of military leaders, systematically abandon their standards and admissions processes when a good athlete is within reach.

Their highly questionable enrollment practices make one wonder whether the academies care as much about their mission these days as they do about winning football games.

There are two ways the military academies sneak in athletes who fail to meet their admissions standards. First, they all operate prep schools whose original purpose — preparing promising enlisted personnel for the rigors of an academy education — is long outdated.

Instead, the prep schools, which cost taxpayers around \$25 million or so per year, are used for other purposes, including "red-shirting" athletes — that is, stockpiling them for a year — when

their high school records would prevent them from being admitted directly from high school. For instance, of the 300 students in the 2011 class of the Naval Academy Prep School, 110 are recruited athletes — typical for the other service academies. Oh, and they get paid a monthly stipend — which would seem to be a rather blatant violation of NCAA rules.

When I talked to academy officials, they pooh-poohed the idea that the prep school was a place to sneak athletes in through the back door. Because athletics are so important, said a public affairs officer, "we consider every midshipman to be an athlete."

But the statistics tell a different story. Nearly 80 percent of the 52-member Navy lacrosse team came through the Naval Academy Prep School; for returning football lettermen, the percentage is around two-thirds.

Meanwhile, West Point recently built a new \$107 million campus for its prep school. An aerial shot of the new campus on the Military Academy Prep School website highlights its dominant feature: acres of lush athletic fields. The second scam involves the nonprofit foundations that exist to give financial support to the service academies. Among other things, the foundations offer scholarships to athletes to go to certain prep schools that stress certain sports — with the proviso, of course, that they then attend whichever service academy the boosters are supporting. (In 2010, when a Naval Academy athlete who had gotten in via the foundation route tried to withdraw, saying "this isn't the place for me," the foundation demanded the return of his prep school "scholarship" money.)

Although Ed Wallace, a retired Navy captain who runs the Naval Academy foundation's "athletic and scholarship programs," denied that it directed athletes to certain schools — or that it singled out recruited athletes for financial support — a document outlining this contractual obligation is on the Naval Academy Foundation's website. Or rather, it was.

It was removed in 2012, when the NCAA began an investigation into the practices of the prep schools and the foundations. (Despite some pretty obvious violations of its rules, the NCAA dropped the investigation last year.)

Of course, these practices are troubling for reasons that go far beyond the NCAA. Is it really appropriate for our military academies to favor recruited athletes over more qualified candidates? Surely there's a lot more at stake when the academies lower their admissions standards than when, say, Auburn does.

There is also the sequester. The Navy right now is in the process of canceling deployments, grounding airplanes and deferring ship maintenance. □



About the children



Bill Keller
© 2013 New York Times News Service

The defenders of traditional marriage tell us the argument is, first and foremost, about the children. You might not know that from the buzz surrounding the Supreme Court deliberations. The children of gay and lesbian parents got a few splashes of attention, including a powerful endorsement of marriage equality from the 60,000-member American Academy of Pediatrics and one sympathetic-sounding aside from Justice Anthony M. Kennedy during the hearings. But for the most part, the debate has focused on the rights of grown-ups and the powers of states, not so much on the well-being of children. And when that subject does come up, the discussion is often shallow or misleading.

So let's talk about the children. The stakes for children in this debate fall roughly into two categories. One is legal: A great scaffolding of laws and benefits created to keep children secure and loved is denied to children who grow up with parents of the same gender. Can that be solved without letting same-sex couples marry? The other is social: Researchers have attempted to ascertain whether kids who grow up with two moms or two dads fare differently from kids growing up with one of each. Is there any reason to think same-sex households are bad for kids, and if so should policymakers tread carefully?

Take the legal question first. Nobody knows how the Supreme

Court will rule, but the best guess of court-watchers is this: The justices will throw out the federal Defense of Marriage Act, assuring that married same-sex couples will be entitled to approximately the same treatment under federal law as other couples. But they seem likely to leave it up to the states to decide whether gays can get married in the first place. That means, first of all, that states can continue to deny children of homosexuals many safeguards that protect children of straight couples. The history of this issue is filled with stories of hardship and heartbreak befalling children whose parents are not recognized as — well, as parents. There are the cases of mothers and fathers turned away from a child's hospital bed because they are not "family." There are the cases of beloved adults denied visitation rights after a breakup. Many states restrict the ability of a gay parent to adopt or to respond to a child's medical emergency. Divorce laws were created in large part to assure that children get financial and emotional support when marriages end: no marriage, no divorce, no support.

It is true that a well-crafted civil union law — one that assures gay and lesbian partners the same spousal parenting rights as marriage — can help remedy these cruelties. But many states do not offer civil unions. Among those that do, not all civil union laws are so rigorous; some are mere approximations of equality that do not confer full parental rights. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg might refer to them as "skim-milk civil unions."

And civil unions do not address the stigma attached to being treated as if your family is not a "real" family — a stigma that amounts to an official imprimatur for bullying and humiliation. "Kids understand and internalize the sense that something is wrong with their families and that they should be ashamed," said Camilla Taylor of Lambda Legal, who has followed many of these cases through the courts.

Which brings us to the social question. Defenders of the status quo (including Justice Antonin Scalia) would have you believe that the research on children growing up with gay parents is deeply ambiguous. If you spend time in the recent archives of such periodicals as *Pediatrics*, *Applied Developmental Science*, *Social Science Research* and the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, you will learn otherwise.

Taken one by one, the studies are far from perfect. The samples are usually small and not random. Few are "longitudinal" — that is, following subjects over years or decades. Social science rarely delivers conclusive results under the best circumstances, and with same-sex marriage researchers face particular handicaps. The number of children who have been raised entirely by stable, same-sex couples is relatively small. (According to the demographer Gary Gates of UCLA, a majority of children being raised by gay or lesbian parents were born to opposite-sex couples who later broke up.) Homosexuality still encounters bigotry that makes potential study subjects wary. And it is hard to untangle all the variables in the raising of children.

But it is fair to say that the research shows no significant disadvantage associated with being raised by lesbian mothers or gay fathers — not in academic performance, not in psychological health, not in social or sexual development, not in violent behavior or substance abuse. And the research leaves little doubt that stable, two-parent households (of whatever flavor) are likely to be better off financially, more attentive to the upbringing of children and more secure than single-parent households.

Of course, the burden of proof lies with opponents of marriage equality. In legal parlance, they are the ones who seek to establish a "governmental interest" that justifies discriminating against gay couples. So where's their evidence? □

AP Interview: Joan Baez returns to past in Vietnam

CHRIS BRUMMITT
Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — At 72, Joan Baez is not short of events to anticipate: She has her mother's 100th birthday party, a tour of Australia and a new passion — painting — to explore. But the folk singer and social activist has spent a few days reliving her past, returning to Hanoi for the first time since December 1972, when American B-52s were raining bombs on it.

Each night, Baez would scurry to the bunker underneath her government-run hotel, her peace mission to North Vietnam interrupted by the reality of war. With the blast waves making her night dress billow, she would tremble until dawn, sometimes singing, sometimes praying.

"That was my first experience in dealing with my own mortality, which I thought was a terrible cosmic arrangement," Baez said last week in an interview in the same hotel in the Vietnamese capital, taking a break from a painting-in-progress on an easel beside her. "It is OK for everyone else to die, but surely there was another plan for me?" she joked. The U.S. launched its heaviest bombing raids since World War II against targets in Communist North Vietnam, which was fighting to overthrow the U.S.-backed government of South Vietnam. The bombardment, which mostly targeted Hanoi, lasted 11 days over Christmas in 1972.

Baez traveled to Vietnam then with three other Americans to see firsthand the effects of the war and deliver mail to U.S. prisoners being held in Hanoi. Many at home were angry at her trip because they believed it gave support to America's enemy. After the war, Baez spoke out against human rights abuses by the victorious Communist government.

Baez stayed this time in the same hotel where she and the rest of the peace delegation were put up 40 years ago by the North Vietnamese government, which was happy to wel-



In this March 31, 2013 photo released by Metropole Hanoi, Joan Baez stands with her back to the wall of an historic bomb shelter under the Metropole Hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam. The folk singer and social activist spent a few days recently reliving her past, returning to Hanoi for the first time since December 1972, when American B-52s were raining bombs on it.

Associated Press

come those willing to listen to its side of the story. The building is now more luxurious, and goes under a different name, The Metropole Hanoi, but much of it remains the same.

She was quick to visit the recently unearthed bunker that sits just beyond one of the hotel bars. Soon after descending, she put her hand to the cement wall, closed her eyes and sang out the African-American spiritual, "Oh Freedom," a song she often sang during civil rights rallies in the United States in the 1960s.

"I felt this huge warmth," she said of her feelings. "It was gratitude. I thought I would feel all these wretched things about a bunker but it was love that it took care of me."

On her return from Vietnam in 1973, she released an experimental album, "Where Are You Now, My Son?" The record features taped, spoken-word recordings taken from the bunker and the hotel and the sounds of Hanoi, including air-raid sirens and dropping bombs. Over a piano accompaniment, Baez sings of her time in Hanoi, including the Christmas celebrations in the hotel lobby and morning trips to see the devastation left by the American bombs.

Baez's time trip to Vietnam is just one part of a life that



In this April 6, 2013 photo, Joan Baez laughs while speaking to former staff at the Metropole Hanoi in Hanoi, Vietnam. The folk singer and social activist visited Vietnam recently for the first time since she came to the country in December 1972 as part of an American peace delegation.

Associated Press

blazes through the cultural and political history of the United States.

She began her musical career in the folk clubs of Cambridge, where in 1961 she met Bob Dylan, who at that time was little known while she was a rising folk star. They had a high-profile romantic and musical relationship for a few years. Known mostly for singing other people's songs, she has recorded more than 50 albums, mostly recently a 2008 record that was produced by Steve Earle.

Baez has always placed her social activism ahead of her musical career, a commitment in part fostered by parents' conversion to

Quakerism when she was a child. A pacifist, she was a leading voice in the civil rights movement and the anti-Vietnam War protest. She has supported scores of campaigns across the United States dealing with poverty, racism, environmental degradation and the wars in Iraq, as well as overseas causes.

She was on a private trip to Vietnam this time but visited a local international school where she sang and spoke to the children. She reminded them of her first act of civil disobedience as a 16-year-old when she refused to go home during an air-raid drill from her school in California. Asked

how she keeps going as an activist, she spoke of the importance of personal "little victories" to set against the inevitable "big defeats" such as climate change and the unchecked pace of arms sales around the world, but also spoke of her need now to stay at home with her mother.

Baez had always shunned party politics, but in 2008 made an exception for Barack Obama. One year into his second term as U.S. president, she now says she is unlikely to do so again. "In some ways I'm disappointed, but in some ways it was silly to expect more," she said. "If he had taken his brilliance, his eloquence, his toughness and not run for office he could have led a movement. Once he got in the Oval Office he couldn't do anything."

To a question on the limits of her pacifism — or as she says "the what-if-someone-is-going-to-shoot-your-grandma" scenario — she replies:

"Anybody who says they would never do this in any situation would probably have to check themselves, but for the way I lived my life and the way I plan to live my life does not include violence," she said. "The longer you practice nonviolence and the meditative qualities of it that you will need, the more likely you are to do something intelligent in any situation."

She said America should have not responded with violence after the 9/11 attacks. "People say if 'we have tried everything' but they haven't really tried anything, because they really want to clobber (something)," she said. "It is what we know, it is what is familiar — revenge and that stuff." Baez still tours the globe, but is now slowing down — just two monthlong tours this year compared to her previous three.

But it's painting now that really fires her. She has been at it for just eight months. The acrylic in the hotel in Hanoi of a young Vietnamese boy against an orange background is her first work that has ever been framed. □